



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

organ of the international brigades ★

All The Peoples Of The World Are On The Side Of The International Brigades And The Spanish

Republican

Government



**To Sr. Prieto, Minister of
the National Defense**

The officers and representatives of the Garrison of Albacete met together under the Presidency of the Under-Secretary of War, Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños, to celebrate the first anniversary of the arrival of the Volunteers of the International Brigades, greet the illustrious Minister of National Defence who with his untiring organisational activity and leadership is leading the Spanish Army to glorious victory.



**To Don Manuel Azaña,
President of the Re-
public**

The officers and representatives of the Garrison of Albacete, met together under the Presidency of the Under-Secretary of War, Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños, to celebrate the first anniversary of the arrival of the Volunteers of the International Brigades in Spain, send to the illustrious President of all the Spaniards the expression of their admiration and reaffirm their unshakable support for the cause of the Liberty and Independence of Spain.

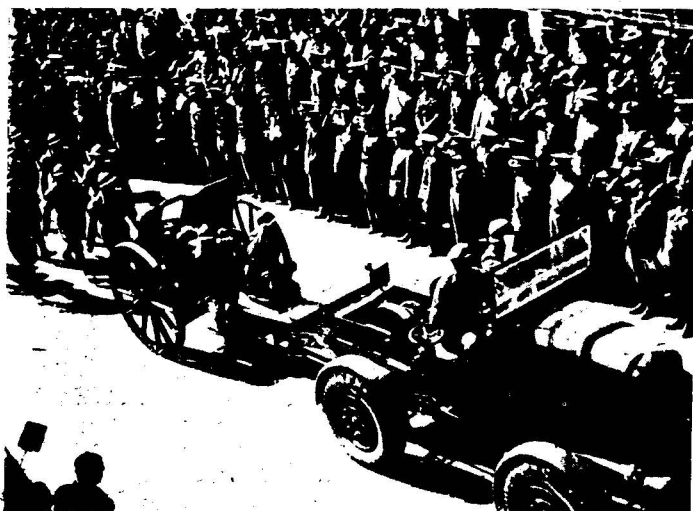


**To Sr. Negrin, President
of the Council**

The officers and representatives of the Garrison of Albacete met together under the Presidency of the Under-Secretary of War, Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños, to celebrate the first anniversary of the arrival of the International Brigades, greet the President of the People's Front Government of the Republic with its firm and determined policy of the unity of all honourable Spaniards will lead Republican Spain to victory over Fascism.



A VIEW of the parade of the troops.



OUR Artillery.



A GRATEFUL tribute to our dead.

IN Albacete A W niversary O Lowered In

Albacete was bedecked with banners, posters and placards. The whole population was celebrating October 17th the anniversary of the arrival in Spain of the first Volunteers for Liberty with a magnificent and enthusiastic fête. The Park, filled with many-coloured triumphal arches, rang from early morning with the cheers of the crowd. All the centres of the parties and organisations were adorned with banners and streamers and slogans affirming solidarity with the International Brigades. The balconies of the official buildings were ablaze with colour.

The whole town lined the streets and the great avenue where the troops were to parade. This vast mass formed a living wall of people who cheered themselves hoarse greeting the international fighters, a river of tireless hands from which rose great bursts of applause.

The military review began at 11 a. m. The troops were inspected by the Under-Secretary for Defence, Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños, representing the Government; the Under-Commissar General of War, Comrade Pretel; the Military Governor of Albacete, Lieutenant Colonel Mangada; the Civil Governor, Comrade Cazorla; the Commissar-Inspector of our International Brigades, Comrade Gallo; and the Commander of the Base, Comrade Bielov. The Madrid People's Front had sent a delegation consisting of its Secretary and Comrade Ovidio Salcedo of the Socialist Party.

The C. N. T. had sent a telegram expressing its warm support of the commemoration and apologising for being unable to be represented at the ceremony. The Delegation of the Spanish Communist Party consisted of Comrades "Pasionaria", Delicado and Checa.

Magnificently equipped, the different units of the International Brigades paraded in impressive order. It was a great demonstration of strength, unity and discipline. The sight was breathtaking.

The Park appeared geometrical by divided by rifles.

The Republican flags floated in the breeze and the bugles gleamed in the light. The various sections parade: infantry, artillery, assault battalions, services of the rear. The people's emotion cannot be described. There was a ceaseless storm of applause. Our volunteers did not hide their enthusiasm as they passed before the Spanish flag.

At the end of the military parade Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños, Under-Commissar Pretel, the Military Governor Cazorla, Lieutenant-Colonel Mangada, and the Inspector of the International Brigades, Comrade Gallo, spoke to the people. With deep feeling they greeted the anniversary of the International Brigades. They spoke of the meaning of the solidarity of the peoples and they expressed their unshakable confidence in victory. In the name of the International Brigades Comrade Gallo made a moving speech which we print on another page. He ended by addressing stirring "vivas" to the People's Front Government, to the Army of the Republic and to the International Brigades, which were taken up by the crowd with long applause.

A banquet followed at which all the leading personalities were present, together with the officers who had come from all the different Units. Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños made a brief speech of greeting on behalf of the Government and its Army and expressed his

great satisfaction of being among comrades all inspired with the same spirit and the same determination. Then Lieutenant Colonel Bielov addressed the Government, the parties and organisations of the People's Front, and the Republican Army. He showed that the organisation of victory demanded the ceaseless creation of reserves and the maintenance of enthusiasm and discipline. His entire speech was a demonstration of confidence in the leaders of Republican Spain whom he presented as men capable of inspiring the final struggle against fascism. The



LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOLASOS, representing the Minister of National Defence. On his right is comrade Pretel, Under-Commissar (general).

THE HUMAN tide pours through the streets...

Under-Commissar Pretel then paid a tribute to "Pasionaria", the symbol of the glorious struggle of the Asturian fighters.

He concluded with an appeal for the rapid realisation of unity and proposed the sending of the telegrams which we publish on the first page.

"Pasionaria" greeted the International Brigades in the name of the Spanish wives and mothers who cannot express their gratitude to those who have come to defend the liberties of the world on Spanish soil. She paid a tribute to the loyal military men who unreservedly supported the Republican cause, who joined with people's fighters and mingled with them whole-heartedly. She recalled the first days of the struggle, when the Antifascists had only

their faith and their enthusiasm, together with a handful of officers who had remained faithful, and when in their need they had made an anguished appeal to the democratic governments.

"Only the people in all the corners of the earth heard that call", she said. "But Spain will raise in her heart an eternal monument to them!"

The afternoon was occupied by a magnificent meeting which took place in the Bull-ring, and was preceded by a splendid parade of the International Brigades. The Secretary of the Madrid People's Front greeted the International Brigades in the name of all Antifascists, and pointed to the Bri-

(Continued on page 15.)



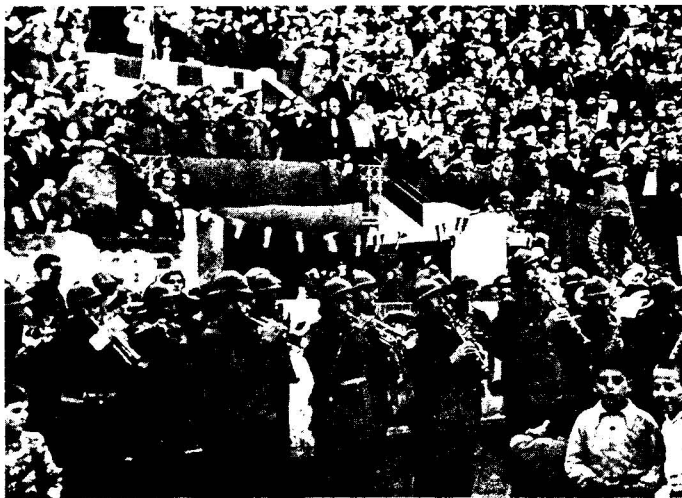
Left: Comrade Pretel, Com-
missar for War.

Left center: Crowd salutes as
National Anthem is played.

Right center: The Medical
service is well represented.

Left bottom: A view of the
endless demonstration.

Right bottom: Workers,
peasants, soldiers cheer as
Internationals parade.



"The International Brigades Will Be Worthy Of The Glorious Epic Of The Spanish People"

Declares Comrade GALLO In Moving Speech

The Under-Secretary of State for National Defence.

Political and military leaders of the Spanish Republic.

Comrades and Volunteers.

A year ago the first volunteers of our glorious International Brigades arrived in Albacete.

They came from all corners of the globe, from all sections of political opinion, inspired with the same enthusiasm, with the same determination: to fight at the side of their brave Spanish comrades who had already made immortal history.

They had only one aim: to put themselves at the disposition of the People's Front Government, to fight under the orders of its General Staff.

They knew that the cause of the liberty and the independence of Spain was their own cause, the cause of all advanced and progressive humanity.

A year has gone by.

A year of battles, victories and sacrifice.

A year in the course of which the Spanish people, under the leadership of its Government, closely united around its glorious Army, has written epic pages in the annals of the peoples.

A year during which international solidarity has expressed itself in the sublime sacrifice and heroism of thousands of our volunteers.

In the trenches of Madrid and Jarama, in the battlefields of Guadalajara and Pozoblanco, in the irresistible offensives of Brunete and Belchite, the Spanish People's Army has barred the way to fascism, has inflicted sharp defeats on Hitler and Mussolini.

It is our pride and our honour to have been able to play our part, shoulder to shoulder with our Spanish comrades, in such great battles: to have been able, in the trenches of liberty, to save the honour of our countries betrayed by fascist dictators or by hesitant and feeble Governments.

In the struggle and in battle we have been able to learn great lessons from our contact with our Spanish comrades: lessons which will help us and our peoples in the

struggle in our own countries.

We have been able to learn the great political lesson which all the Spanish people, which all its leaders have given to the whole world:

—In face of reaction it is necessary to unite in a block of steel all the forces of the people who, alone, can defeat reaction and foreign invasion.

We have learned how it has been possible, thanks to the sacrifice of the people and the ability of the leaders, to call up, almost from nothing, a new Army able to defeat the best Divisions of Spanish and International Fascism.

We have learnt that in the fight to the death between reaction and progress, between slavery and liberty, there is no sacrifice, no heroism which is beyond a people ready, like the Spanish people, to conquer or die.

Spanish comrades, Representatives of the Government and Military Commanders.

We thank you for the immense help which you are giving to the cause of the liberty and independence of all peoples.

We thank you for all that you are teaching the world in the struggle against fascism.

We shall know how to profit by your lessons.

Comrades, Volunteers for Liberty.

Delegations from our five glorious Brigades.

Raise high your banners of battle and victory!

They are the banners of the glorious resistance at University City and Las Rozas.

They are the banners of Teruel and Lopera, of the Almeria and Jarama Fronts.

Raise high your banners, which saw the enemy in flight at Pozoblanco and Guadalajara.

Raise your banners of the glorious offensives of Guadarrama and Belchite.

Your banners are fanned with the breath of our fallen heroes, of Beimler and Lucasz, Parovic and Picelli, Ralph Fox and De Brougères.

Your banners are the hope and the pride of our peoples. They are the symbols of the heroic epic through which we have lived here in Spain.

What do they say, our banners, waving in the breeze of glory and victory:

—People of Spain.

The International Volunteers, your adopted sons, will be worthy of you and of your magnificent epic.

They have only one ambition: to be able to count always among the bravest and most disciplined soldiers in your great Army.

We want to act so that our wives and our children can be proud of us, as every Spanish wife and child can be proud of husband and father fighting on the fronts of freedom.

Forward, Spanish comrades fighters of all lands!

Forward, always united as one man, to defeat fascism and inaugurate an era of peace and brotherhood among all peoples.

Long live our glorious People's Army!

Long live the People's Front Government!

Long live its representatives and delegates at the anniversary of our glorious International Brigades!



OUR COMMISSAR INSPECTOR of the International Brigades, Comrade Gallo. On his left Lieutenant Colonel Bielov, Commander of the Base.



The International Fighters For Freedom Show

By ANDRÉ MARTY

"They marched towards sunrise and sunset, to south and to
[north.
Old guns weighing down on their shoulders, those heroes went
[forth.
Passing rivers and hills.
Without rest, without sleep, ragged and hungry.
They went joyous and proud...
And a glorious freedom burned bright through their thoughts."

VICTOR HUGO.

Such were the soldiers of the Year II of the great French Revolution. Such were the Volunteers for Liberty in the past twelve months. Volunteers who had hastened to Republican Spain from all countries in the world.

A year has passed... already! So many great events have filled these twelve months. October 14th. Railwaymen, workmen and country people in a little town which was exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather saw the arrival of some hundreds of men, talking French, German, Italian, Polish and Bulgarian. The first Volunteers... Nineteen days later a complete Brigade started for Madrid, and five days afterwards a second took the same road. The International Brigades were entering the Spanish people's great war of emancipation...

1.

WHY THEY ARE THERE

There were millions of workers who, from the first day of the fascist rebellion in Spain, felt a lump in their throats and a stab in their hearts. In Paris and in New York, in Brussels and Prague, from the Arctic Ocean to the Rio de la Plata, over the whole surface of the immense Soviet Union, the workers, and all who valued freedom, were living through the anguish of the July days. They greeted the rapid victory of the workers and peasants of Spain, who within a week had freed all the big towns and most of the villages from the bloody fascist horde and the traitorous, perjured generals.

There was painful anxiety again when Mola's Army was going to

come down through the Sierra towards Madrid. Then fresh enthusiasm; the battalions of militiamen, all volunteers, hastily formed and hastily armed, were barring the road against the fanatical *requetes*. Already dozens of brave military and political leaders were rising from the mass. The loyal Republican officer and the worker had both become commanders of militia of battalions. There were "Campesino", Riquelme, the Galan's, Ortega and many others barring the way against the criminal generals and their profess-



ANDRÉ MARTY

sional officers. Then there was stupefaction and rage. While fighting planes of the Italian air force came down in the Mediterranean and in Oran, terrible proofs of one of the greatest acts of brigandage that history has known, the

French and British Governments, on the pretext of holidays -- which are still proceeding -- carried out a *de facto* withdrawal of their ambassadors from Spain. A moral blow which would have been very heavy for the fighting antifascist people and their Government if the great and powerful Soviet Union had not then declared before the world its entire solidarity with Madrid. While the Basque Country was being attacked by a rebel army which daily received more arms, planes, tanks, Italian and German officers, and then whole military units, the democratic Governments of France and Britain were organising the boycott of the lawful Government under the name of non-intervention, and the United States Government was declaring itself neutral as between the murderer and his victim! It was clear that the most reactionary elements of



THE INTERNATIONALS are now the Spanish people's brothers.

That The Path To Victory Lies In Antifascist Unity



E MARTY



finance capital in France, Britain and America wanted the defeat of the Spanish people and their Government. Some individuals were explaining that it was necessary to avoid 'provoking' those in Berlin and Rome who were pulling the strings of the Burgos puppets, and these same individuals were claiming that this was the only possible attitude to adopt to defend peace.

But the workers at least had not forgotten Mussolini and his blood thirsty gangs, and still less had they forgotten Hitler and February, 1933. They knew that the fascist wolves were untamable and that whoever offered them his hand would leave them his arm. If the brutes' teeth had been broken at the time of Abyssinia, it would not have been tearing at Spain today. Capitulation in the face of the fascists had let loose the war in Spain... while waiting for the next to follow. And so we came to August 14th and the massacre of Badajoz. Already taught by February, 1934, French workers — ex-soldiers — hastened to Irun and Catalonia. Later they formed the Paris Centuria. The Gastone Sozzi Centuria — Italians and Poles — was formed at Madrid and the German Antifascists grouped themselves in the Thaelmann Centuria in Catalonia.

Irun fell for the lack of the trucks of munitions from Barcelona, which were held up by France. Then there was San Sebastian. *Talavera!* Non-intervention was victorious; foreign invasion was pouring its forces into the valley of the Tagus. That magnificent people, suffering fresh reverses every week, did not capitulate. They did not want fascism. With each fresh retreat, fresh battalions of volunteers set out singing. Their rifles were old and they had very few bullets. Too often it was with their own bodies that they barred the way against an enemy daily better armed. But already a great military force is rising; the Fifth Regiment of People's Militia. New leaders are coming forward: Castro, Lister, Mo-



A minute's silence.

desto, Carlos, Cartón... sometimes officers, sometimes commissars. They are both commanders and agitators. In this way 80,000 combatants with military organisation were given to the Republic in five months. Throughout the whole world thousands of workers, and hundreds of free spirited men understood what the democratic Governments, in complete opposition to the peoples they claimed to represent, did not want to know. Franco's victory meant a new impetus to fascism all over the world, and above all in France. Franco's victory, because of decisive economic and strategic positions meant a fearful war speedily launched by Hitler and Mussolini, brought to bay by economic bankruptcy. It meant war devastating the loveliest countries in Europe, machine gunning, burning and gassing millions of human beings from the cradle to the grave.

Those workers, those exiles from fascism hunted down in all countries, realised that what was at stake in the Spanish struggle was the liberty of their own countries and of the whole world.

Toledo fell September 25th. There was only a swarm of militiamen before Madrid. The blockade of Republican Spain, against all the principles of human justice, after handing over Irun to the bloodthirsty Jesuit Mola, was going to throw Madrid, with its

magnificent people and its art treasures, into the hands of the fascist bandits, drunk with blood — and the Madrid women were already promised as the spoils of war to the sadistic mercenaries of Queipo de Llano.

Then in all countries ordinary workers rose in thousands. They left their wives, their children and their parents. Well-known surgeons and famous writers left "good jobs" Forced in the past by capitalism to become experienced soldiers, to defend its interests, they at all events understood what the people of Spain needed to defend their interests, to defeat a rebel army which was already being transformed into an army of invasion. It was not heroism; it was arms, military equipment, and the men who knew how to use them and understood the very complicated technique of modern warfare. That is why they hastened to offer their lives together with their military knowledge. The highest example of what international solidarity can be...

Blackshirt and army divisions under orders, Capronis, Henkels and their crews were arriving ceaselessly on Franco's side. Then the Spanish Republic, which would have crushed the rebels in a few weeks if the latter had relied on their own resources, accepted these "Internationals", workers, peasants and intellectuals.

It armed them with difficulty with rifles of fifteen different types and with a few old machine guns of about ten different types.

The Paris Commune had its small international battalion and so did Dombrowski. The little "International Legion" fought under the banners of the Russian Revolution. From the workers of all countries the Spanish Revolution received International Brigades with all their services, including aviation. A small, a very small military force. But a heroic living proof of the real solidarity with the Spanish people who were being treated like pariahs by the democratic Governments which were going against the will of their peoples. Thus the mere presence of the International Brigades was a most powerful moral factor; so powerful that thousands of brave Spanish women wept with emotion as the Volunteers passed through many of the villages in the Peninsula.

2.

THOUSANDS, UNITED AS ONE

The International Brigades have given valuable help in the magnificent antifascist struggle of the Spanish people. Madrid on November 7th, Cerro de los Angeles, Teruel on November 13th, at Lopera on the Cordova Front, at Jarama — each of these names marks the date when one of the international forces moved into the line, not to mention the different units sent to various decisive points every week for four months. Ceaselessly united in comradeship with the new Spanish Brigades, they broke the desperate attacks of the fascists or delivered heavy counter-attacks against them. Day by day, with great organisational effort, the international units were being constituted under the attentive, benevolent and fatherly direction of the President of the Cortes, Martinez Barrios, who was charged by the Government with forming the Brigades — those basic units of the new Republican Ar-

my. All the complicated organizational structure of modern warfare was coming into being and developing — from a road transport service with its workshops and a modern medical service to radio and anti-aircraft defence transmissions. In line with all this, great modern hospitals were being formed and the political section was growing up with its press, communiqué and literature services in twelve languages and its network of politically conscious soldiers.

The heroism of the International Volunteers. We have said little about it. How can one speak of it after having seen Madrid? Madrid in October, when Getafe and Carabanchel fell — which meant that from one moment to another the enemy might burst into the heart of the capital. Madrid, which all the military attaches of the capitalist world declared to be lost. Madrid, whose last hours the reactionary journalists, in the pay of Hitler and Mussolini, were intending to describe. But Madrid, whose working men and women took up the challenge and barred their streets with the famous streamers: "Madrid shall be the grave of Fascism." Madrid, whose people rose in one mass at the appeal of the "Junta de Defensa", uniting all the parties and trade unions. There was Miaja, the old general loyal to the Republic — and Antón, the young Commissar, a revolutionary worker — at the helm night and day, never weakening.

The decimated battalions were reorganised. New ones were formed. They were all there, the young and old commanders and commissars of the Fifth Regi-

ment. The building workers were digging trenches. Women were making bombs and cartridge pouches. The streets were barricaded. Tank traps were dug. Children piled up paving stones and stretched out barbed wire. They worked at night in the darkness and during the day under fascist bombing planes. When the Moroccans appeared at the Manzanares between two bursts of shrapnel, the "No pasaran" of the old and the new soldiers of the people rang out. "No pasaran". They have not passed, and Hitler's snout still bleeds for it. And for 2 months the magnificent people of that city which numbers its dead in thousands old and young, women and children have worked and fought, trained and organised under the bombs and the shrapnel. They have cleared away the ruins of their houses and begun to build the new Madrid. After that, how is one to speak of the heroism of the International Volunteers, when however great it was — and it was great — we have seen every day so many magnificent actions and when we have seen this magnificent people of Spain who for the last fifteen months have preferred "death standing to life kneeling", a noble appeal to the world struggle against fascism. And so we have forgotten to make known the innumerable examples of the heroism of international soldiers — old revolutionaries and young antifascist fighters. Today it will be enough to say: from the Casa del Campo to Andújar, from Guadalajara to Belchite, from Almería to Jarama, there is not a battle in which the Internationals have not taken part.

Nevertheless it is not the heroism which the International Brigades have taught the Spanish people. That has not been necessary. The Spanish people have enough and to spare, and in fighting a fascist army better armed, and organised in Italy and Germany, heroism is not enough.

The Spanish Republic would have been crushed long ago if it had not put a great People's Army into the field, firmly disciplined and led by a unified command. The International Brigades have been one of the foundations of this new army, thanks to their high technical qualifications and their firm discipline. That is one of the essential services which the international Volunteers have rendered the Spanish Republic.

On the fascist side there is a mass of picked foreign troops — blackshirts and regular Italian divisions, tank divisions and aviation squadrons from the German and Italian armies, regiments of legionaries Moroccans — all these have invaded that country, and without their help Franco and Gil Robles would be powerless to hold it under their dictatorship. They make up for the deficiencies of an army which Franco cannot raise in Spain because the majority of the people are against him.

On the other hand the International Brigades have simply been units in the new Republican Army. They have fought under the single command of the Republican Government, whereas Hitler and Mussolini dictate from Berlin and Rome, even to the point of giving orders for the conducting of operations. The commanders of the Army to which the International Brigades belong are not called Von Faupel, Teruzzi or Bergonzoli, but Miaja, Pozas and Rojo. In this army, to the sound of the songs of freedom of all countries, the Brigades have been the first modern military forces of the Spanish Republic. And so after the disasters of August, September and October, when those heroic militia batallons which had done marvels in the street fighting in the early days of the rebellion, were defeated in oper-



PASIONARIA, the symbol of brave Asturias, greets the Spanish Communist Party.



THE SECRETARY of the Madrid People's Front speaking at the meeting in the Bull-ring. On his right: Comrade Lampe. Left: Comrade Walter.

country, there followed first the implacable checks delivered by the new army in November and December at Madrid, at Lopera in December, and at Jarama in February. Meanwhile new Brigades of the People's Army were being organised behind this impenetrable shield. For the first time there was victory at Guadalajara-Caporetto. Henceforward not only was a stop put to the heavy weekly defeats of the Summer and Autumn and the retreat which followed, but the Republican Army, sure of itself, was beginning to recover the initiative in operations. It now sees the final victory drawing nearer. The strict discipline, freely consented to and maintained by the Internationals in their units, is also the discipline of the People's Army and opens the way to victory. Thus the International Brigades both fought and organised without respite — for until April only one Brigade had spent twelve days in the rear. This solid military wall formed by each of the International Brigades has been one of the greatest services they have rendered to the antifascist cause. The International Brigades — together with many other Brigades of the new Army — have been a living example of what must be done to conquer.



International Brigades with the Delegation of the

3.

THE VOICE OF UNITY

The International Brigades have given another example which is even greater.

They came from 25 different nationalities. They represented all kinds of different political trends: Socialist, Communist, Republican, Anarchist, Liberal even. Together with the workers, who formed the overwhelming majority of the fighters, there were mingled intellectuals and sometimes some ex-officers. And in spite of the differences of political views and language, antifascist unity was immediately and permanently maintained. The Republican Commander, his Socialist Adjutant, the Communist Commissar, each coming from different countries is a frequent combination. Yet political conflicts have never broken out on the General Staffs or in the military units.

A hundred times, French and German Volunteers have made the discovery that somewhere in the Great War they were face to face. Today they are in the same antifascist People's Army, and their only rivalry is in vying with one another in the fight. A former British sailor, a leader in the Invergordon, mutiny, was the su-

perior officer of a British Admiral's son. French ex-sailors, who had taken part in the Black Sea Mutiny or who had come from the Calvi military prison are section leaders who are models of discipline under the command of ex-soldiers who fought in the Great War. The hatred for barbarous fascism, the great ideal of Peace and Freedom, have soldered into one impenetrable force these fearless men who have come from all the different political horizons. Moreover they are daily fusing more and more with the Spanish people. Between two battles, cleaning their arms, with their wounds just dressed, they are to be found bending down over the village children whose fathers are at the front and who remind them of their own little ones. Hundreds of times, after distributing toys

and sweets levied from their meagre pay, they have found time to organise happy fêtes for the children.

Firm unity of action — that was the second example they gave, the most important at this time. The International Volunteers have shown that the secret of victory lies in antifascist unity, a unity without political or national distinctions.

Today there are no International Brigades in the sense in which we understood them a few months ago. These Brigades with their glorious banners no longer contain more than a small proportion of Internationals. They have been definitely fused in the young People's Army to which they have brought more than their military experience. Italians, Germans, Frenchmen, Belgians, Poles, Britishers, Americans, and others have all seen the fascists at work with their violence and demagoguery. They know that to break antifascist unity is death and defeat, and they have treasured this precious weapon, unity of action, as they treasure their own eyes. The essential strength which they have brought the new Republican Army lies in this antifascist unity, not only maintained, but strengthened after every battle.

This is so true that the enemy,

being unable to destroy the International Brigades by military means, has done everything possible to break that antifascist unity. In the first place they have tried to set certain sections of the Spanish people against the Internationals.

"Anarchist comrades", they have printed. "Beware of the Brigades of the Communist International who are fighting by our side to defeat fascism. They will constitute the army corps which the Catalanian and Spanish Communists will send against you, as they did against the Anarchists in the Russian Revolution".

This was written in Spain, and in France, England and other countries. It was not signed "Franco" but "P. O. U. M." Internationalist Communist Party — i. e. Trotskyist. An unspeakable action on the part of the scum who stealing the arms needed at the front. An insult to the heroes who had fallen in the struggle such for example as one of the commanders of the Henri Barbusse Battalion, who was an Anarchist and a model of discipline, and who died as a result of wounds received at the Jarama.

There is not a single son of the noble Spanish people who does not know how comradely and moving the relationship has always been between the Volunteers of the international forces and the military commanders of the Republican Army, with the different officials of the Republican Government, with the municipal authorities, the People's Front Committees and with all the political and trade union organisations without exception.

But the wretches have done more than that. They have sought to break the military unity, the

antifascist unity of the Internationals. Against the organisation in Brigades constituted in accordance with the plans of the War Minister and directed by a single responsible body, the Commander assisted by the Commissar and the Chief of Staff (or Adjutant Commander) — they have supported the system of isolated militia battalions directed by irresponsible committees! In other words, they support the system which has been irrevocably condemned by the defeats of the Summer of 1936 against the military organisation which has given the first victories. Whom do they expect to serve in that way, unless it is Franco and Hitler? What a melancholy sight it is to see French Socialism upholding the same deadly theory in the official organ of the Socialist Party, and using this argument to maintain that one ought not to send the Republican Army the arms it has been prevented from receiving during the last fifteen months! The efforts of those fascist agents had no success. Then they turned to open crime. And not merely to sabotage in an automobile workshop or in loading grenades.

Two Frenchmen — a Trotskyist and a police provocateur, expelled as such from the French Communist Party — tried to break up a battery at the moment when it was setting out for the front by taking from it all its gun-layers and all its sergeant-gunners. Under the command of a French Socialist ex-officer, who had fought in the Great War, this battery has subsequently revealed itself as one of the best in the Spanish Army. Who are these men working for? It is a French Trotskyist too who, together with the fascist French Consuls of Valencia,



THE CHILDREN are there, too.



COMRADE CAZORLA, Civil Governor of Albacete, speaking on behalf of the people at the commemoration.

Barcelona and Alicante, under cover of their diplomatic immunity, has been trying to organise the break-up of the International Brigades as a whole. He has been defended by the Hitlerite Doriot. If this had succeeded the Republican Army would have been weakened as a result. Magnanimously the Republican Government has limited itself to expelling these people, whom all the evidence shows to be agents of Franco and Hitler. The working-class in their country will not forget their foul crimes, despite even a Fenner Brockway's protection. The working-class will nail them and their infamy to the pillory for spies and provocateurs in the pay of the bloodthirsty torturers of the people, in the pay of German and Italy, in the pay of the worst enemies of the working-class.

But the most remarkable thing is that their efforts were in vain. *There is no Military Police in the International Brigades.* In spite of that, the efforts of these criminals have failed. The attack made by the Fifth Column and carried through above all by the Trotskyists has done everything possible to break up and demoralise the International Brigades. In December, at the Base, in January at Teruel, in February in the hospitals of Valencia, in April on all the fronts and in all the services. The attack was supported simultaneously by a violent campaign by the Hitlerite Doriot in France, by Degrelle in Belgium and by the most reactionary of the British Conservatives, but it broke like glass, not against a police barrage, but against the firm antifascist determination of the Volunteers. That is the great lesson which stands out after the Inter-

national Brigades' year of struggle. That is the great example which the Spanish people have received from them—these Brigades in which one might have feared that the enemy would be able to develop fatal differences between political trends and nationalities, have remained firmly united in face of the enemy of the human race.

It is to be regretted deeply that in many countries a few reactionary labour leaders persist in not wanting to understand the lessons of the Spanish epic—just as earlier they refused to understand the German tragedy.

It is highly dangerous when these same reactionary leaders of the Socialist International and the International Federation of Trade

Unions persist in ignoring the appeal for unity from those whose bonds of brotherhood have been made fast in blood and suffering

Spaniards and Internationals. It is madness for them—after these last 15 months—still to refuse that international united front which would raise an irresistible wave against the intervention of Hitler and Mussolini in Spain. It would take them by the throat through the boycott of dockers, sailors and railwaymen throughout the world. It would break the steel circle of the democratic states which is stifling the Spanish Republic more than Franco's bombs, "Made in Germany" are slaughtering it.

It is tragic that they refuse to listen to the voice of the old Socialist leader De Brouckère, who is appealing for the rapid and immediate realisation of international unity of action. It is not words that will stop the metal rain of shells, shrapnel and bombs which is torturing a brave people and the best sons of the International and Spanish working-class. Only deeds will do that. This is the urgent demand of those who have sealed that unity among the dead bodies of those of our dearest friends and comrades. Unity will ensure the antifascist victory in Spain and in the world. There is still just time enough to hear.

4.

AN IRRESISTABLE FORCE

However, the time has come to tell what that force is which

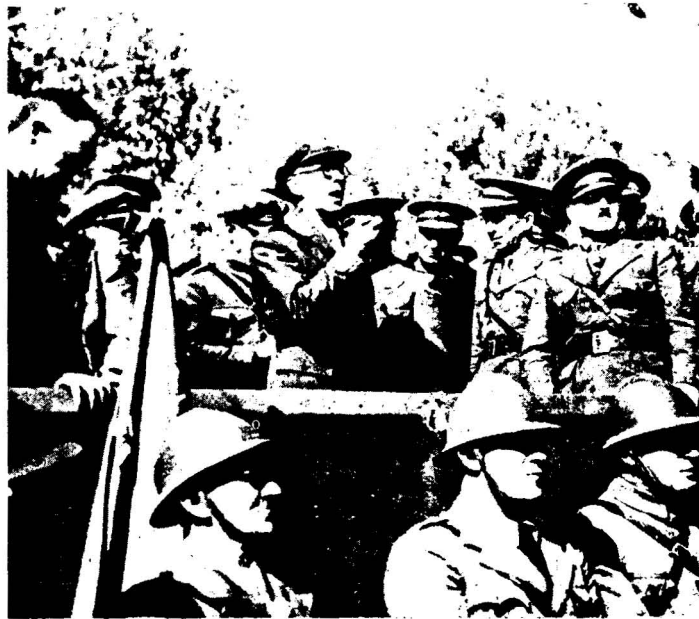
among a chaos of men, unable to understand one another, has given rise to and has led in battle that little modern army which was constituted by the International Brigades and has defended them against the stab in the back.

The moment has come to say what that irresistible force is which is rising among the noble Spanish people and will give them victory.

That force is the antifascist spirit and the will to unity of the workers, gathering together and urging forward the whole of the people.

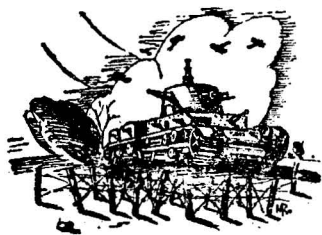
The International Brigades have never been non-political. Far from that. Not a unit has gone to the front without the Political Commissars being appointed by the side of the Brigade Battalion, Company, Battery and Squadron Commanders. These Commissars have relied on the workers who formed the majority in the units, and among them on the mass of Socialists and Communists who now in reality form one united body. It is here that the essential strength lies.

Among a thousand examples, who can fail to remember that of the XIIth Brigade when, on the morning of November 9th, the order came for it to be sent to Madrid at the latest on the 10th. What a condition it was in! The first-comers among its Volunteers had been at the Base ten days. The latest arrivals had been there for 24 hours. Only the Garibaldi Battalion was formed, but it was armed with 25 rifles and one machine-gun. No equipment. Half the other Volunteers were in civilian clothes. Not one of them had his equipment. The rifles were of four different types. The Brigade had three types of machine guns. The artillery had not even a quarter of the trucks they needed. They could not carry out manoeuvres with the guns because the lack of material. It was impossible to work at night: the light had been cut off because of the danger from the air. To form the Brigade in 36 hours seemed an impossibility. Nevertheless, Lukacs and the international General Staff—military and political accepted without hesitation, for they knew they did not have to rely only on a military leadership however highly qualified—which was scarcely formed! They could rely on the antifascist spirit of the Brigade, on the rank and file of the worker-soldiers, the great majority Socialists and Commu-



COLONEL MANGADA

nists, on the Commissars who would be equal to all difficulties and would prove on the spot, the necessity for solving them, at whatever cost, in order to defeat fascism. By marvels of initiative they succeeded. There was not a mistake made in the distribution of the different rifles. A lack of trouser-suspenders — they used canvass. A lack of cartridge pouches — they cut up sacks. The carpenters prepared supports for the cannon. The section leaders formed fighting groups while supplies were being distributed. The artillery officers were studying firing tables with dictionaries in their hands. The horses were being shod while the saddles were still



missing. While the doctors and surgeons were hastily collecting the indispensable medical instruments and supplies, carpenters were preparing stretchers. And in the midst of an enthusiastic and unheard of hubbub of the frantic preparations two Renault assemblers were testing the engines of trucks of every make in the world, as calmly as if they were in a model workshop. Before the final review and the departure there was still time to call together a big meeting to commemorate the glorious nineteenth anniversary of the great Socialist October Revolution and to present to the whole Brigade their Commander, Lukacs their Commissar, and the Commanders and Adjutants of the General Staff. And what the bourgeoisie would call a miracle was performed: at 8 p. m. on November 10th, the XIIth Brigade, fully organised and equipped, provided with artillery, cavalry, motor-cyclists, a political section, medical and supply services, set out for Madrid, singing the *International* in Spanish, Italian, German and French.

The antifascist spirit of the proletarian soldiers had overcome all difficulties.

Many, many times, in the most difficult and sometimes in the most tragic moments, this, high antifascist political consciousness, always maintained and increased,

has been the creative and organising motive force that worked real miracles. Today the great joy of the fighters is to see that in all countries and throughout the Spanish Army this force of the united workers is growing greater drawing closer together, and is ensuring the victory.

Their greatest happiness would be to see it develop faster, much faster throughout the whole world. All have worked well. But none the less a fundamental truth must be stated: the Communists can be proud that in these tragic moments, they, who have constituted the majority of the working-class group in each unit—and they would have been happy to have been put in a minority by more Socialist comrades—they have been equal to the great historic task which faces them.

In these twelve months of heroism they have been worthy members of that revolutionary workers' Party of a new type, the world Party of the Bolsheviks. They are worthy sons of that Party, which formed and led by the greatest minds of our times, Lenin and Stalin, has overthrown the old world and is about to celebrate with joy 20 years of real liberation for a whole people. All are worthy of that great Antifascist and Communist fighter, George Dimitrov, whose magnificent example of proletarian firmness and vision, of political realism and antifascist hatred in face of death, put in check the butchers of the German people, and has been and remains their guide at each stage in the struggle.

FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

The workers of the whole world, all men of unfettered spirit, will always pay a tribute of infinite gratitude to those who have given their health, their blood and their lives for the antifascist cause in Spain which, as Stalin said, "is the cause of all advanced and progressive humanity."

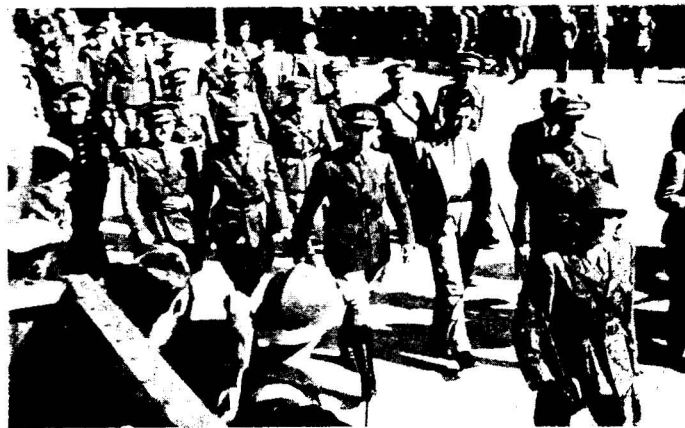
Lukacs, the great Hungarian revolutionary writer, Commander of the XIIth Brigade; Hans Beimler, the steeled German revolutionary, Commissar of the XIth Brigade; Alfred Brugère, a Paris building worker, Commander of the Machine Gun Company of the Paris Commune Battalion; Ralph Fox, the English writer and soldier, Company Commissar in the Barbusse Battalion; Parovic the Jugoslavian Commissar of the XVth

Brigade, and so many others who have left us forever, killed facing the enemy. But their example will live always in the hearts of the great and noble Spanish people and the international working-class.

We salute their courage and we swear to avenge them. We shall only do this, we shall only honour our dead as they deserve *by raising ever higher the banner of the cause for which they have fallen*, the banner of struggle against fascism without rest or truce, the banner of trade union unity, the banner of the political unity of the workers of all countries.

The fight is not finished. Every day fresh reinforcements, fresh engines of death are being sent to

at the end of 1936 and the beginning of 1937 will remain the true friends of the Spanish people in the future even more than in the past. They know that the fate of the European peoples, the fate of peace and freedom is being decided on Spanish soil. For this reason the antifascist front must conquer and will conquer. The defeat in Spain of the most bestial regime the world has ever seen will not only bring freedom and peace to the Spanish people. It will bring a new hope to the people who are still crushed beneath the fascist heel. And when the multitudes of the working-class and the people greet the truly democratic Republic, henceforth free, there is not one of the fighters in Spain today who will not



THE GENERAL STAFF reviews the troops.

Franco by his masters in Berlin and Rome. Every day world peace is threatened with greater danger. Now the Chinese people in their turn are resisting the brutal and savage aggression of Japanese imperialism. Already there are two fires ablaze in the world. We must hasten the victory.

The Spanish Republican Army, precisely because it can now count on more than half a million fighters, has an even greater need of leading forces than it had a year ago. And since each International Volunteer is in himself a centre of organisation and unity, he is more valuable than ever.

Franco is only maintained by the injections of Italian and Nazi reinforcements. His collapse is inevitable. But in the death agony the cornered beast can kill.

Consequently the Volunteers in the International Brigades who together with their Spanish comrades have dealt many a hard blow in conditions as difficult as those

be proud to tell his children in the happy future: "I was one of the Volunteers in Spain."

Greater effort should be made in Spain and throughout the world, in the future more than in the past, to achieve this triumph of the antifascist struggle. More still should be done to overcome the resistance to unity, to sweep away those who fight against it and those who sabotage it, so that in this way a more rapid victory may be assured over the modern barbarians with their black shirts and their swastikas.

And so, long life to the heroes of the great Republican Army!

Forward to the final victory of the Democratic Spanish Republic! onward to this victory, the prelude to a surer peace in the world and to the liberation of the peoples still enslaved by fascism!

ANDRÉ MARTY

October 10, 1937.



OUR INTERNATIONAL

AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE



COMRADE RICHARD, Brigade Commander says a few words of greeting. Commander Raimondi can be recognised at the back.

The Units constituted by Spanish and foreign volunteers were organised by the decree of August 31st, 1920 ("Diario Oficial" number 195) developed in the circular order of September 4th of the same year. Neither of these orders is however fully applicable to the forces similarly recruited which are at present fighting heroically as part of the Republican Army.

Even though the Units now existing under the name of International Brigades are legally those which the Spanish State, using its sovereign rights, has constituted to take the place of the Units which revolted in July 1936, and are analogous to those which under different names exist in the Armies of almost all countries, it is necessary to lay down fresh norms which should regulate their recruitment, organisation, administration, etc. To meet with this necessity I have determined:

1. To take the place of the Tercio de Extranjeros (Foreign Legion), formed under the decree of August 31st, 1920 ("Diario Oficial" n° 195) the International Brigades are formed as Units in the Spanish Army. At the present time five of the above-mentioned Brigades should be constituted on the basis of those formed spontaneously in the course of the present war, adapting their consti-

itution to the norms indicated in the present order.

2. Tactically the International Brigades will be used as front line troops and in all the services of peace and war, with no restriction other than that of their military utility.

3. Their organisation will follow the model assigned to the Mixed Brigades in the Spanish Army. The troops forming these Brigades will be subject to the Code of Military Justice and to the Army Statutes, in the same way as Spanish soldiers.

4. The training of the International Brigades will be adjusted to the same Regulations and Instructions as those which are in force in the other Units of the Army.

5. The uniforms and equipment will be the same as those of the other forces in the Spanish Army with no difference other than that of wearing on the right side of the shirt or jacket, two centimetres above the pocket, the emblem which will be published in the DIARIO OFICIAL and which only those incorporated in these Units, whatever their military rank, will be entitled to use.

6. In Albacete the International Brigades will have their Base, the fundamental mission of which will be to receive the volunteers, both Spanish subjects and foreigners who present themself-

OUR RIGHTS A

We are publishing the Decree which lays down the position of the International Brigades in the Spanish People's Army and the rights and duties of all the Volunteers for Liberty.

This is the first document which determines in an official manner which this position and these rights and duties.

It determines these in a way which is completely satisfactory to our soldiers.

It is clearly emphasised in the Decree that our brave Brigades have nothing to do with the "Tercio" which revolted against the Republic in 1936 and is composed of the dregs of all countries.

In our Brigades are gathered together the best sons of all the peoples. The Brigades are the World People's Front fighting by the side of Spain to defend the people's liberty and independence.

It is to express this highly po-

litical significance that the Decree determines that all the Volunteers for Liberty should wear as their distinguishing mark the *three-pointed star* which is the symbol of the World People's Front.

The Decree also lays it down that our Brigades form an integral part of the Spanish People's Army.

We have always asked for this and have always affirmed it. We have come here with one single purpose: to defend the liberty and independence of Spain. We have always obeyed the orders of the Government and its General Staff. We only ask for the honour of serving the common cause of liberty on the same terms as the Spanish fighters.

A regular army and a unified command: these are the essential conditions for victory in the armed struggle against fascism.

Because of this we receive with enthusiasm all those measures in

ves to swell the ranks of the Brigades, to train them and send them to the Brigades as circumstances demand. Once the recruits are incorporated in the Brigades they will cease to be subordinate to the Base whenever the Brigades are tactically subordinate to the corresponding military commands and will constitute administrative units in an analogous manner to the other Mixed Brigades in the Army.

Nevertheless the International Brigades will depend on their Base for the following:

- a) In addition to their reports to their own military commanders, the Brigades will report to the Base all their movements from one place to another, their losses, leaves granted for the interior of Spain and in general all that supposes a change of any importance in the life of the Brigades.

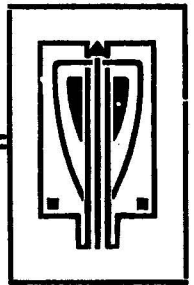
- b) Petitions for leave abroad will be noted by the Brigade Commanders and forwarded to the Base. In no case will the applicant be authorised to absent himself from the ranks of his unit before the leave has been granted.

- c) All proposals for promotion to whatever rank, beginning with promotion from corporal to sergeant, will be forwarded to the Base by the Brigade Commanders.

- d) When any Brigade has a soldier who, after previous medical examination in the Unit, is declared to be presumed unfit, the Brigade, without removing him from its list of effectives, will send him, to the Base where his case will receive final medical examination. When his *unfitness* is confirmed this will be communicated to the Brigade so that the latter can remove him from the list of effectives. In cases were

INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

SPANISH PEOPLE'S ARMY



AND OUR DUTIES

The Decree which tend to make our Brigades more and more integral parts of the Spanish People's Army.

The needs of the first days, the lack of organisation which still existed at that time, made it necessary to have a rather special organisation of our services.

Now our army has developed. All our services function remarkably well and all the services of the International Brigades should be organised on the basis of the services of the Regular Spanish Army.

Our postal, supply and medical services should therefore form an integral part of the respective Spanish services.

As a token of the services rendered by the Brigades the Decree grants the recognition of some advantages to the combattants. This is the significance of the points concerning the nomination of offi-

cers and the International Volunteer's right to 13 days' leave abroad for every 6 months' service at the front.

The last point in the Decree, which lays it down that all the volunteers enroll until the end of the war, emphasises even more strongly that our Brigades are not formed of mercenaries, but of volunteers ready to fight to the finish to secure the defeat of Spanish and international fascism.

They are fighters who know all the hardships of the struggle and who never flinch and never will flinch before the fascist butchers, either in their own countries or in the trenches of freedom.

Victory or death is their slogan, just as it is the slogan of all the Spaniards.

L. GALLO

Commissar Inspector of the International Brigades.

unfitness is not confirmed the person concerned will return to his Unit.

e) The Brigades should send to the Base all particulare statements and reports for which they are asked.

7. In addition to the organs necessary to execute the above functions, the Base of the International Brigades will have the organs corresponding to the following:

a) To collecting and distributing among the Brigades all the gifts which international solidarity may send expressly to the Brigades.

b) To take the first steps in matters of pensions for death or incapacity, collecting the documents and antecedents demanded by the legislation in force and then forwarding them to this Ministry for decision.

c) To forward to this Ministry, after investigating them, the petitions for permission to leave Spanish territory made by members of the International Brigades of whatever rank.

d) To report to the Ministry on the incorporation of recruits and their departure for the Brigades.

e) To keep a file which will contain all the relevant particulars concerning the members of the Brigades,

f) To propose the formation, and when necessary to undertake the direction of centres for re-education necessary for members of the Brigades who stand in need of this as a result of injuries received on war service.

g) To propose the formation, and when necessary to undertake the direction of rest homes in which those combattants who ha-

ve their families abroad, and who have no residence here, can spend their leave in Spain.

8. In no case will the Base intervene in the functioning of the Supply and Medical Services relating to the International Brigades. The Brigades will make use of the general services of the Army in the same way as the other Mixed Brigades. Nevertheless on the basis of a proposition which the Base will make to this Ministry, the General Medical Inspectorate will be able to organise, under the Inspectorate's control, the installation of special hospitals with the qualified staff and assistants necessary for the wounded and convalescent members of

the International Brigades who are in need of lengthy hospital treatment. Entrance to the said hospitals will be regulated at all times by the General Medical Inspectorate.

9. The relation between this Ministry and the Base of the International Brigades will be effected through the Foreigner's Bureau, attached to the Section of Services of the Undersecretariat of the Army.

10. The International Brigades will be formed of Spanish and foreign volunteers. Nevertheless this Ministry reserves the right to send directly to the Brigades the soldiers, non-commissioned and commissioned officers, and

REPÚBLICA ESPAÑOLA
1.ª BRIGADA MOR
CHANG

7 de Noviembre 1936

ORDEN GENERAL DE OPERACIONES
para la zona de 8 Noviembre

1er Parte

I.- SITUACION GENERAL. Hicr en fin de la noche nos situamos en la línea de combate de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles.

II.- DISPOSICIONES EN LA LINEA. En la zona de la línea de combate de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles, se han concentrado las fuerzas participando en la zona, comprendiendo entre las unidades a las unidades de la zona, con presencia posible de otras.

III.- MISION DE LA BRIGADA. Adaptar en caso de necesidad las disposiciones de la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles, en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles, en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles.

IV.- COMPOSICION DE LA BRIGADA. (ver anexo).
2 batallones en 1ª Sección (1ª y 2ª Batallones).
1ª Batallón a la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles.
2ª Batallón a la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles.

V.- DISPOSICION DE LAS BATALLONES. Puesto en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles, en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles, en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles.

VI.- Una sección en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles, en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles, en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles.

VII.- Una sección en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles, en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles, en la zona de la zona de Madrid a Cerro de los Angeles.

AN HISTORIC document which proves that from the beginning our Brigades obeyed the orders of the Spanish Government.



COMRADESHIP in the trenches. Commander Mera, Anarchist, with Commander "Campesino", Communist.

Commanders whom it deems desirable. The personnel at the Base will consist preferably of members of the Brigades who are sent for service at the front, and in any case it will be indispensable for the members of the personnel to have been at the front for the minimum period of three months which is laid down in the decree of June 19th of this year ("Diario Oficial" No. 148). The personnel of the Foreigner's Bureau will be appointed by the Ministry.

11. The foreign personnel of the Brigades will consist of those who of their own accord present themselves at the Foreigner's Bureau or before its delegates and who, after admission, will be sent to the Base for registration. The Spanish personnel will consist of those who apply for admission to the Brigades to this Ministry, either directly if they are not subject to military service, or through the regulation channels if they are in the Army. The petitions will be dealt with as a matter of urgency and in the event of their being answered in the affirmative by this Ministry the order will be given for the person concerned to be removed from the list of the effectives of the Unit from which he proceeds, his entry at the Base of the Inter-

national Brigades and his immediate enrolment in the Brigades.

12. The Spanish or foreign soldiers of the International Brigades will fill by promotion 50 % of the vacancies in the Brigades for sergeants, officers and commanders. With this object the Brigades, when reporting to the Base that such posts are vacant, will propose those members in the Brigades whom they regard as deserving of promotion. To pass from one post to another it will be necessary to have held the lower post for a minimum period of two months. If the Brigade does not possess sufficient personnel to fill the vacancies, they will be filled by the nominees of other International Brigades, and in the event of there being none they will be filled by the Ministry by direct nominations of military personnel. A vacancy will not be considered to have been created except in cases of death or when the Base communicates that the post is vacant through unfitness, a change in post or removal from the Army. Absences due to wounds, illness or leave will not be considered as vacancies, and when necessary the posts concerned will be filled temporarily by men from lower posts, without this supposing any promotion. Those who are promo-

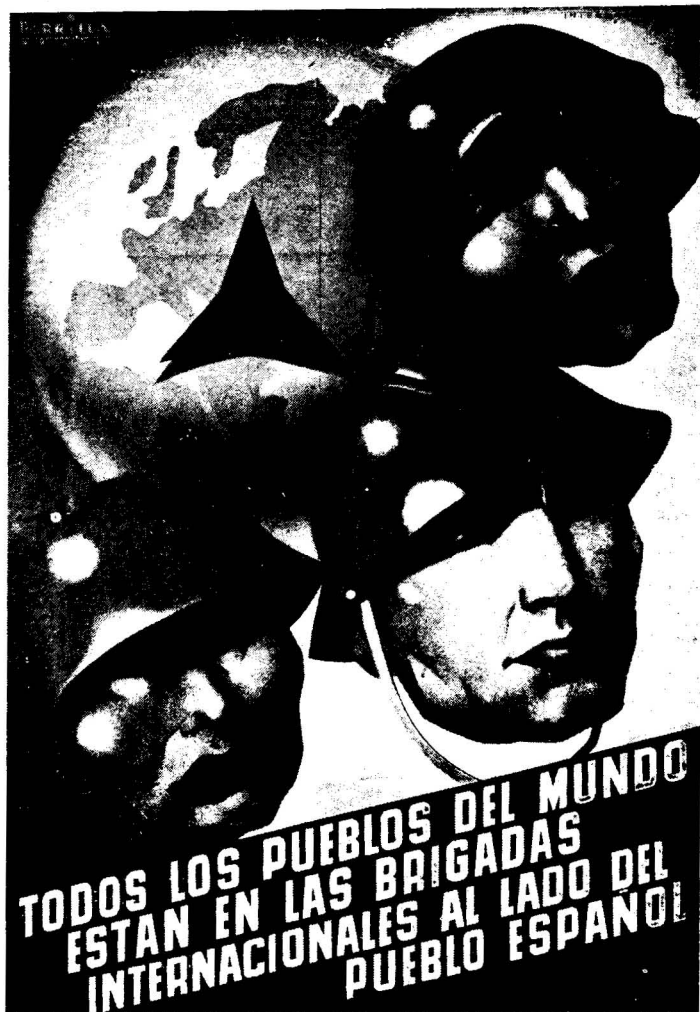
ted will receive the corresponding rank of sergeant, officer or commander of the International Brigades, and when the present campaign is ended they will constitute the permanent commanding cadres in the said Units. The sergeants, officers and commanders of the International Brigades cannot be sent outside these Units. They can be isolated, expelled or reduced in rank for obvious incompetence or impropriety in the execution of their duty, after a report has been made by the Commander of the corresponding Brigade and by the Commander of the Base.

13. The other 50 % of the vacancies of sergeants, officers and commanders will be filled with men sent directly by the Ministry of Defence, from among those who are already recognised in those posts in the Army. These men will remain subject as far as promotions are concerned to the general existing norms in the matter of recompenses.

The commanders, officers and sergeants who desire to be sent into the International Brigades should send in the appropriate application to the Personnel Section of the Undersecretariat of the Army.

14. Soldiers, non-commissioned and commissioned officers and commanders, both Spanish and foreign, belonging to the International Brigades will in cases of incapacity or death have the same rights as those in the rest of the Army.

15. All members of the Brigades will have the right to thirteen days leave for every six months at the front, always providing that the necessities of service permit it and providing that the conduct of the soldiers concerned make them deserving of this in the Commander's opinion. For this purpose the corresponding turns, two a month, will be fixed in each Brigade, so that each month leaves can be begun once they have been passed in re-



TODOS LOS PUEBLOS DEL MUNDO
ESTAN EN LAS BRIGADAS
INTERNACIONALES AL LADO DEL
PUEBLO ESPAÑOL



COMRADE ALVAREZ DEL VAYO,
General Commissar of War.

view by the Commissar. Those who wish to spend their leave outside Spain should apply in advance, abiding by the decision which is taken. The Commander of the Base of the International Brigades will communicate to each of the Brigades the number of places at their disposal in the Rest Homes which may be installed in virtue of the provisions of section (g) of the seventh article of this order.

16. The measures laid down in this order will be put rapidly into operation by the soldiers and officers now constituting the International Brigades and their Base as they receive the appropriate instructions from the Foreigner's Bureau of the Undersecretariat of the Army.

17. The Commanders of the International Brigades will send to the Base of the Brigades with

all possible speed a statement of the leading forces, specifying their nationality, date of birth, date of entry into the International Brigades and date at which they were given their present posts, so that the Ministry can proceed to confirm them in those posts when it considers this fitting.

18. The necessarily variable condition of the organisation of the personnel constituting the Base of the International Brigades makes it impossible, at least for the moment, to assign to it a fixed organisation. For the purpose of the review by the Commissar the numerical account will be sent monthly to the Foreigners Bureau and in relation to this the review should be made.

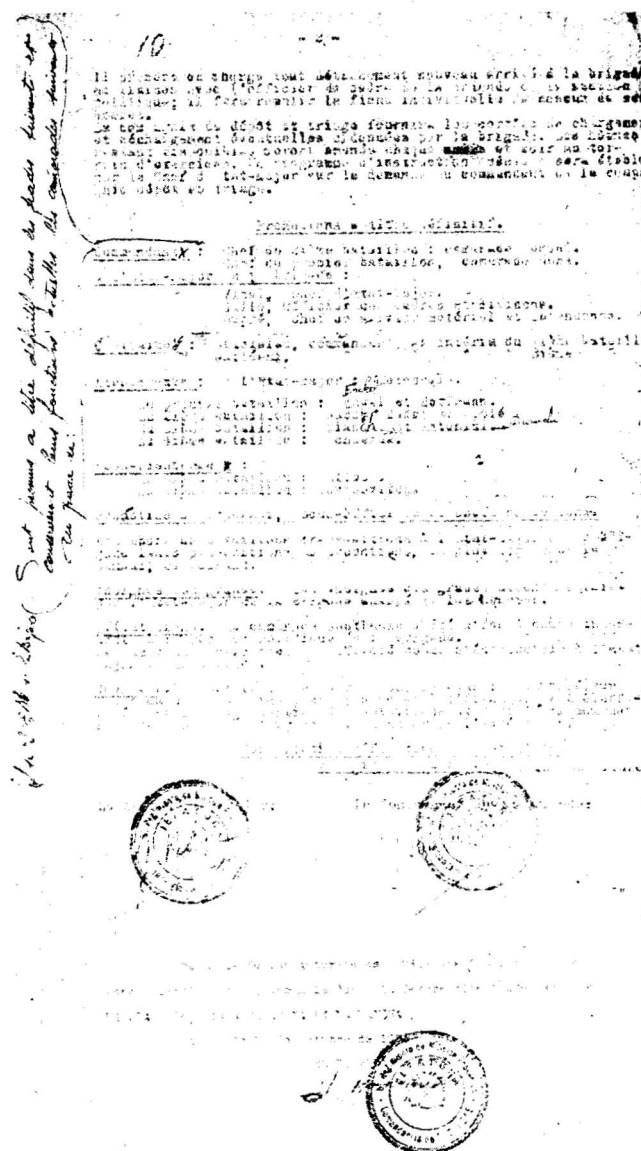
19. To those foreigners who have served for more than a year in the Army with a clear record and very deserving conduct a certificate will be forwarded which will serve as the basis for according them Spanish nationality should they so desire.

20. All those who voluntarily enter the International Brigades undertake to remain in them until the end of the present campaign. When this campaign is finished the norms will be laid down in accordance with which these Units should be organised in the future.

I communicate this to Your Excellency for your information and for application.

PRIETO

Valencia, September 23rd, 1937.



ONE OF the Government's first orders.



I. B. CELEBRATION IN ALBACETE

(Continued from page 3.)

gades as the living expression of the World People's Front. Comrade Lampe, Political Commissar of the Albacete Base maintained that Spain was fighting for the liberty of all countries and the volunteers of all lands who had answered her appeal had not come to fight as adventurers, but simply with the firm intention of crushing international fascism finally and utterly.

"To win the victory", he said, "We need the closest unity of all Antifascists!"

The representatives of the Albacete People's Front and of the Youth Alliance also spoke.

At the end of the day, after this moving commemoration, one conclusion was engraved in the minds of the people:

Antifascist unity in Spain is the strongest weapon for victory.

Antifascist unity throughout the world will be the universal grave of fascism.

And beneath the tricolor flag of the Spanish People's Front and its Government, the International Brigades are in fact the purest, the most advanced, the most living and the most burning expression of the World People's Front.

A TRUE PICTURE OF THE VOLUNTEERS FOR LIBERTY

The I. B. Political Commissariat to form a home for the orphaned Spanish children

On the first anniversary of the International Brigades the Political Commissariat of Madrid has taken an important decision which cannot fail to have the happiest repercussions. In a gay and sunny spot we are going to make a home to receive the children of the Spanish comrades who have fought in our Units and have fallen in battle against fascism. We, the Volunteers for Liberty, should bring a little joy and happiness into the lives of those poor little children whom the war has orphaned and plunged into the cruellest suffering. We must bring back a little life and hope to those children whom we want to see healthy and happy, for they are the Spain of tomorrow. There are hundreds and hundreds of them asking for our care and affection, and for whose sake we should carry out as soon as possible the most modest of the duties of human solidarity. It is to carry out this splendid work that we are again approaching all the soldiers of peace and freedom, and once again making an appeal to their generosity.

We know that our appeal will be answered. It must be. Begin collections at once for all the tiny orphans who are a little, as it were, our own. Help us to make ready without delay that fine building in which we shall be able to calm so much grief and distress.

Our home will be worthy of the glorious past of the International Brigades, a living symbol of human solidarity.

ANDRÉ GRÉGOIRE



Some scenes from our units' stays in villages in the rearward.



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

organ of the international brigades



Vol. I - N.° 22

Madrid, November 8 - 1937

SPAIN HAILS SOVIET UNION'S ANNIVERSARY TODAY

225 MURDERED BY FASCIST BOMBS

Lerida Children Killed in School By Air Raid

An official Government report informs us that new fascist trimotors continue to attack civil populations in cities and towns distant from any battle fronts. Last week 9 fascist bombers flew over the city of Lerida, located more than 150 kilometres away from the Aragon front and bombed and machine-gunned the civil population. Among the buildings demolished was a school house where children were at session. After the air raid, the bodies of fifty children were excavated from the ruins of the school. The number of civilians dead total about 225. The authorities have not as yet completed the totaling of those injured.

SABOTAGE IN FASCIST PLANE FACTORY

In the Italian Aviation factory, Reggio-Emilia, 20 workers, all members of the Fascist Party, were arrested by the Mussolini government for acts of sabotage, it has been confirmed.

The "Voce degli Italiani", Paris antifascist Italian newspaper carries the news that 16 airplanes headed for Spain were forced down because of faulty machinery.

20 Years of Workers' Victory Nov. 7, 1917 - Nov. 7, 1937

Today we celebrate the twenty years of progress of Socialism in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. During these years, we have witnessed the transformation of old, backward, Czarist Russia into the great Soviet land it is today — taking its place among the foremost advanced nations of the world. From a land of industrial backwardness it has become one of the great modern industrial nations. In agriculture, the age-old methods of cultivation and production have been replaced by tractors and the most modern farm machinery. The old mud roads have been paved and up-to-date highways now cover the nation. Endless miles of railroads cross the breadth and width of Soviet soil. Unity and fraternity are established for all times between the peoples of the various nationalities, comprising the great Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Education and culture have taken the place of ignorance and superstition.

Twenty years in which the workers and peasants have constantly seen tremendous improvements in their working and living conditions. Everything undertaken — nobly and honorably carried out. Following the lead of the Stakhanovites — thousands of workers and peasants, day by day, increase production in industry and agriculture — helping to create Socialist prosperity. Twenty years of progress in the fight to maintain world peace — while busily engaged in Socialist construction — that is the record of the Soviet people and its government.

We in Spain celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the great October Revolution in the midst of our great struggle against world fascism. We are fighting against the efforts of international fascism to implant in Spain its bloody regime of bestial terror and barbarism. We fight in the ranks of the heroic Spanish Peoples Army — with the full knowledge that the defeat of fascism on Spanish soil will be the victory of peace and progress throughout the world.

The Soviet people have taken sides in this struggle. They have seen their ships, laden with cargoes of food

(Continued on page 7)

FLASH!

LaGuardia Reelected
Mayor of New York;
Crushes Mahoney
By 450,000 Votes

As this issue goes to press, the news has just been flashed in that Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, backed by a powerful labor and progressive — virtually a People's Front — vote, has been swept into office for another term as chief executive of the city of New York. The labor and progressive vote swept the Mayor back into office with almost a half million votes to spare, swamping the Tammany candidate, Mahoney, under a vote of 1,304,016 to 889,591.

*

We are still waiting anxiously for news of the elections in other large American cities, notably Detroit, where it is virtually certain that several labor candidates will be elected to the City Council.

LETTERS from HOME

FROM THE SOUTH WALES MINERS' FEDERATION

Dear Friend (Mr. Bill Morrissey): Your message of salutation from the Welsh comrades of the International Brigade to the miners of South Wales was read to my Executive Council, and I am instructed to reciprocate and wish the International Brigade every success and a final victory for the democratic forces in Spain.

Wish all good wishes.
Yours sincerely,

OLIVER HARRIS
General Secretary South
Wales Miner's Federation
Cardiff. Oct. 14, 1937.

★

CHICAGO POST OFFICE CLERKS SEND GREETINGS

Greetings from Chicago to the heroic defenders of democracy. We in the states appreciate what you are doing. Carry on, and we will assist you all we can.

A GROUP OF CHICAGO
POST OFFICE CLERKS
Sept. 28, 1937.

★

AND SOME CONFETTI FOR THE VOLUNTEER

Dear Comrades: Congratulations on the splendid special anniversary number. Everybody at --- was tremendously impressed with the make-up and the contents. Many copies are being sent home by the patients and personnel, who feel that the VOLUNTEER is one of the finest publications in Spain.

With anti-fascist greetings,

IRVING BUSCH
Comandante American
Hospitals in Spain.
Oct. 29, 1937.

★

What do you think of THE VOLUNTEER? Write in when you

In the Name of 400,000 Auto Workers



GENERAL OFFICES
801-5 HOFMANN BLDG.
DETROIT, MICH.
Cable: 8146-7-8-9

International Union United Automobile Workers of America

GENERAL OFFICERS

HOMER MARTIN President
WYNDHAM MORTIMER First Vice-President
ED. HALE Second Vice-President
WALTER N. WELLS Third Vice-President
GEO. F. ADDIS Secretary-Treasurer



September 14, 1937

Mr. John Rossen
c/o Socorro Rojo #273
Plaza del Altozano
Albacete, Spain

Dear Brother Rossen:

Your letter of August 23 has pleased me very much indeed. I am delighted to know that you are enough interested in your union, although in distant Spain, to remember the date of the Convention and to send these greetings.

It was a great Convention. You would have been impressed by the militant spirit and the progressive attitude of the delegates. I am sure that we have established a more effective way of dealing with our problems and a more efficient structural set-up since the Milwaukee Convention. I know we will be able to stabilize our relationship with General Motors, Chryslers and other corporations in a satisfactory way as a result of the Convention. At the same time, we are ready for a vigorous campaign to organize Ford Motor Company.

We have not forgotten the fight that is being waged by our fellow-unionists against Fascism and we want you to know that we are 100% behind you in your struggle.

With every good wish, I am

Fraternally yours,

Homer Martin
Homer Martin
General President

hm/ab
uopwa #26
c i o

AT LEAST 400,000 American workers belong to the U. A. W. A., whose president's letter to one of our comrades is here reproduced. Among the Americans in Spain are many auto workers who will be cheered to know that just as we, in the thousands, are fighting fascism on the battlefields, are they, in the hundreds of thousands, fighting to make fascism and its unnamed but known sponsors impossible at home.

have the chance, and let us know. Everything goes suggestions, criticisms, contributions - so long as the aim is constructive and meant to better our paper. And, whenever possible - barring shortage of

our varied paper supply, or shortage of zinc for the making of cuts, or a shelling that puts our printshop's electric power out of commission, or the sudden decision of our best engraver to chuck his job and

join the Peoples Army (which happened recently) -- we'll make fullest use of your confetti or your brickbats. Address all communications to THE VOLUNTEER, S. R. I. Plaza del Altozano, 63 E, Albacete.

WILLIAM DOBBIE, BRITISH LABOUR M. P., AND FORMER RAILWAY WORKER, SPEAKS OVER MADRID RADIO

I am speaking from Madrid after an experience in Spain which I shall never forget.

I attended the opening of the Cortes in Valencia last Friday and, in view of the international situation, it was indeed a historic meeting. I, with Ernest Thurtle, was attending the Assembly to convey to the Government of Spain a message of good will from the Labour movement of Great Britain.

Dr. Negrin, the Prime Minister, welcomed us to the Cortes. We extended our greetings to him and delivered our message, which was received by the Prime Minister with much satisfaction and has been received everywhere in the spirit in which it was sent.

The speech of the Prime Minister in which he emphasised that the Government wanted peace and order to develop the country according to the democratic decision of the nation, while on the other hand they would resist fascist aggression to the last man, was received enthusiastically. A vote of confidence in the Government was moved in which conservatives, anarchists, socialists, liberals, communists, in fact all sections of the House, expressed their agreement and was carried unanimously.

In the evening Mr. Thurtle and myself had the privilege of meeting the Prime Minister in his private residence. He confirmed the prospect opened out to me that as time went on slowly but surely the Government would get better in organisation from a military standpoint and that the industrial population were playing their part by applying themselves to an intensive organisation of supplies, by the opening of new factories and by the extension of existing works. It is very true to say that in the minds of the ordinary man and woman in Spain there is a great wondering as to why the democratic countries of the world who are members of the League of Nations deny to the Spanish Government, which is also a member of the League,

the right of application of International Law to buy the things that are needed to defend the democratically elected Government of the country, while these nations stand idly by and watch the violation of all international principles by the fascist states who are assisting the rebels. This question has been put to me by many representative people in Spain.

The Government are confident they will win, and they only want to win because they represent the will of the people.

On Saturday the House again met and, after a speech by Pasionaria, who is a deputy for the Asturias, and who is the wife of a miner as well as the daughter of a miner, and who represents a district which has made wonderful sacrifices for the ideals of the Government, the House adjourned.

On Sunday, there was a terrific bombardment from the air at Valencia.

As I stood in that scene of death and desolation, and later on watched the clearing of the debris, and the taking away of dead and wounded civilian population, I wondered if there is no force in our great world civilization that can put an end to acts of barbarism like this.

In contrast to this I visit a war prisoners' camp where there are 1,168 prisoners. A number of them speak English and they all look pretty good physically, they all agree that they are treated well, and that their rations are as good as they were while in the rebels' army.

There are no luxuries to be obtained in the way of food in Valencia and the Government have very wisely decided to ration early, so that they may be able to meet the exigency of the winter, no one is starving, but every one is rigidly held to his ration.

On Monday I proceed to Madrid.

A year ago and then later I was in this city when it seemed

fairly probable that the rebels would capture it. Today I am confident the city is impregnable.

I have seen on the way from Valencia a change in the personnel and morale of the soldiery. While in 1936 I saw untrained, unarmed men and women defending the barricades, I now see well trained young men, well equipped with arms, and enthusiasm for their country and their cause, ready to defend it to the last.

I pass through the streets of Madrid and on through the section of the area which has been bombed and shelled so often, and I see people still living in this district. I pass through the gates of the Casa de Campo. This is the immediate Madrid front, a wonderful park, part of which the rebels still hold. I meet the Major, a young man, like most of the officers and I am impressed by the demonstration of comradeship and trust exhibited by everyone toward him.

I walked along with the officer into some territory lately captured from the rebels and which the Government troops were clearing.

I saw some gruesome sights which make one wonder what kind of people are engaged in

this struggle and what passions stir their breasts.

I saw men and women tied together lying dead in circumstances which made one shudder. This has not terrorised the youth of the Spanish Government forces, but has made them say more determinedly than ever, the aggression shall not pass this way.

I finish my survey at 2 A. M. on the morning of the 6th. Today by 7 A. M. I am again looking round and today I have seen the work of making and preparing armoured cars. I have seen and talked to the railwaymen who are operating the armoured train.

I have seen also the educational work which is being carried on in the training schools of the various battalions. This last year hundreds of young men have learned to read and write in the army and are preparing for a nobler citizenship when the war is over, under a democratic Government, than ever has been known in Spain before. As I leave the railwaymen in their armoured train they shout: "Salud! Long live the Spanish Republic!"

This spirit can never be broken. The Government of Spain has the people behind it

I am confident they will win.



A GROUP of women and children leaving their "refugio" after an air raid. Such women and children were bombed, and 225 killed, at Lerida a week ago (see story on page 1).

MADRID POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENT HONORS THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

At a huge meeting arranged by the Popular Front Government in honor of the volunteers of the International Brigades, on Sunday, October 31, an enthusiastic crowd jammed the Calderon, one of Madrid's largest theaters, to express their gratitude toward the antifascists who have come from every part of the world to join them in their fight against fascism. General Miaja, chief of the army of the

center and the people's beloved defender of Madrid, presided over the meeting. He presented banners to the delegates of the various units of the International Brigades.

A large hand embroidered silk banner, in the colors of the Spanish Republican flag with the Madrid antifascist emblem placed in the center was presented to each of the five International Brigades.



THE 15TH BRIGADE banner, given by the Popular Front of Madrid to the Anglo-American fighters, held aloft by Lieutenant Harry Poll, the leader of the Brigade's delegation to Madrid. At right, center, the entire delegation is grouped around the Brigade banner and the smaller Battalion banners. At right, top, General Miaja salutes at the International Brigade's celebration. Part of the audience can be seen at right bottom.



Madrid's ancient emblem consists of a crown within which looms a bear on its haunches facing a tree. A three-pointed star on the lower edge of the crown represents the world's antifascist emblem. Each battalion in each Brigade was given a pennant-like banner which was as carefully and as beautifully made as the larger one. In addition, a gramophone with records, a radio, and some books were distributed to various Brigade delegates.

At the long table on the platform with General Miaja were seated Frank Ryan, commander of the Irish fighters in Spain, who has been with the International Brigades from almost their inception and Artur Dorf, first Commissar of the first International Battalion which went into battle on the Madrid front during the dark days of last November. Among others at the table was the General Secretary of Madrid's Popular Front Government.

The program opened with the presentation by General Miaja of the banners and gifts

to the delegates of the various Brigades and Battalions. Each delegate filed past and as a young girl presented him with a hammer, he was received with a warm hand-shake by the famous General.

Unavoidable transportation difficulties kept the regular 15th Brigade delegation from arriving in Madrid in time to receive its own special banners from General Miaja. In its absence, the regular Anglo-American delegation at Madrid accepted the gifts in the name of the 15th Brigade. Both banners and gifts are now on their way back to the Brigade, in the capable hands of the delegation of ten headed by Lieutenant Harry Poll.

There was little speech-making. In its place the generous Madrileños prepared a program of entertainment. The music hands of the 112th, 40th, and 75th Brigades contributed their services to the festival. There were humor skits and stage dancing. Pretty girls sang the "Flamenco" as the audience joined in at intervals with the drawn-out traditional "Olé!"



FRANK RYAN

FASCIST PLOT TO GRAB FRENCH MOROCCO FOILED

News from the French Moroccan zone indicates that fascist elements have provoked a general rebellion with intentions of wresting control of this territory from France and establishing another fascist State in Africa.

The situation in the city of Fez was so serious as to have



made it necessary for the Government troops to march into the center of the city where they battled with several hundred fascists who occupied the Karuyne University, using it as a fort. The fascists were finally subdued by an encircling movement of the Government troops. Government planes were also called into action.

MILITARY RULE

The city of Medina is now under strict military rule following the defeat of the fascist uprising. During the fray 30 were wounded and many nationalist Arabs arrested.



The natives of Casablanca repulsed the fascist agitators from Port-Lyautey. During the fight four were reported killed and 22 injured. Eighty fascists have been detained in connection with the rebellion. Government authorities have taken special measures to institute order once again. Arrests have been made in Rabat and Marrakes.



CROWDED FACES in the balcony of the Calderon Theatre form the background for one of the numerous posters and signs which decorated the large hall. "The Popular Front of Madrid to the People's Front of the World!"

BRITISH YOUTH AID SPAIN

BY D. BURKE

(Member of Executive Committee, Scottish Youth Peace Council.)

Comrades in Spain are already very well acquainted with the character of the aid rendered to the Spanish people by the British Youth in the International Brigades. The intention of this article is to deal with the activities of the young people's organisations in Britain.

A Youth Foodship Committee for Spain was formed in October, 1936, and represented in it were the University Labour Federation, Young Communist League, Labour League of Youth, League of Nations Youth groups and an organisation called the Popular Youth Group. This committee organised three campaigns.

The results of these campaigns were—the first realised £1,500 in cash and about £1,000 in food; the second £700 in cash and £1,000 in food, while £500 in cash and £200 in food was realised in the third campaign.

The character of the activity indulged in called for great patience and energy on the part of the members of the youth organisations. It was customary to issue leaflets appealing for donations, to distribute them carefully round the workers houses and then to conduct a house to house canvass on a later evening to collect the donations. As examples of what this meant, during the second campaign 100,000 and 60,000 leaflets were distributed in this fashion in Glasgow and Edinburgh respectively.

Another form of work was the organising of socials and dances where, instead of a cash payment for admission, all attending brought gifts of food. At such functions souvenirs from Spain were auctioned and I have seen young workers pay as high as ten shillings for a souvenir, an indication of their high feeling as they could ill afford so much. Short ten to fifteen minute speeches on events in Spain

were also made at these functions.

Film Shows mass rallies were also organised and collections in food and cash taken at them. These activities continued until July 1937 when, as a result of the International Youth meeting at Paris, the youth organisations in Britain conducted a much more serious and wider discussion on how to aid the Spanish people.

It was considered that the main task confronting youth was to increase the number of youth organisations actively conducting aid for Spain, and that the Foodship Committee was too much confined to the "left" organisations.

The movement to broaden out was facilitated by a decision of the British Youth Peace Assembly against non-intervention and supporting the claims of the People's Government of Spain. After a discussion between the organisations concerned it was agreed that the Foodship Committee should become a special sub-committee of the B. Y. P. A. and that all the organisations affiliated to the B. Y. P. A. should be encouraged to participate in the work of the sub-committee.

Under the leadership of the B. Y. P. A. the movement to aid Spain has been much broader and more successful. Support is now being given to the activity by new organisations such as the National Council of Girls Clubs, Congregational Church Union, Methodist Church Youth (both the latter being Christian youth organisations) and many others.

The B. Y. P. A. initiated a campaign for 100,000 tins of milk (Fit for Babies) and the Archbishop of York, Bishop of Bristol, Sir Walter Layton, Sir A. Salter, Lord Cecil, Sir Stafford Cripps M. P., Duchess of Athol, and many others have donated cases of milk to the fund.

A loud-speaker van toured Great Britain organising mass rallies and street collections of money and tins of milk. The 10th. to the 17th. October was declared a special Self Denial Week in aid of the children of

Defense of Madrid

Madrid, heart of Spain,
throbbing with fevered pulses.
How fiercely your blood mounts,
from heat to heat.
Now you will never be able to sleep,
for, if Madrid sleeps,
she will want to wake up one day,
And there will be no dawn.
Don't forget the war, Madrid;
never forget that ahead
the eyes of the enemy
cast on you glances of death.
Hawks hover in your sky
and aim to swoop about
your red tiled roofs,
your streets, your brave people.
Guard, Madrid, against
the word, the thought, the whisper
that in the heart of Spain
one drop of blood dare turn to snow.
Fountains of courage and manliness
are yours as always.
Boundless rivers of wonder
have to stream through those fountains.
Let each quarter at its hour,
if that evil hour should come
—hour that shall not come—
stand firmer than
the strongest fortified place.
Men like castles;
the battlements their brows;
huge ramparts their arms,
gates that nobody penetrates.
Whoever cares to look into
the heart of Spain, let him come soon,
Madrid is a long journey.
Madrid knows how to defend herself
with hands, with feet and elbows,
Madrid can jostle and bite,
the wrath of Madrid stands up
straight and hard,
by the green water of the Tagus,
in Navalperal, in Sigüenza,
where whine bullets, bullets
that seek to change warm blood to ice.
Madrid, heart of Spain,
of soil within which there is,
if you search for it, a great hole,
deep, huge, overwhelming,
like a vast gorge waiting...
Only to give them death.

RAFAEL ALBERTI

Spain and during this week the youth throughout Britain denied themselves little luxuries and organised collections among their friends. The collections were sealed in Special envelopes and handed over to the B. Y. P. A. The figures for this campaign are not yet on hand but the organisers are

confident that they will reach the objective set.

Attention is now being directed to organising the work on more regular and consistent lines so as to ensure regular aid to the Spanish people. At some future date I hope to be able to give a further report of our successes in this respect.

THE SOVIET UNION 20 YEARS OLD TODAY

(Continued from page 1.)



THE SOVIET ARMY PARADES IN THE RED SQUARE



A FLOAT AT ONE OF THE SOVIET FESTIVALS



WHERE THE U. S. S. R. BUILDS DEFENSE WEAPONS

and supplies, sunk by the pirate fleets of international fascism. But still their aid continues unabated. The solidarity of the Soviet people and their representatives, who championed our cause at Geneva, will never be forgotten. The Soviet people have shown by their acts of solidarity and support to Spain that they justify the claim of Stalin who declared that "the Soviet people are the greatest bulwark of world peace".

Today, in paying homage to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, we must learn from their successes. The best tribute we can offer to the Soviet Union is the building of an unbreakable anti-fascist unity. The unity which is expressed in the Peoples Front — the weapon which guarantees our coming victory. A year ago today Madrid was saved from the fascist invaders because the people were united. This unity must now be made stronger than ever. Unity among the armed forces, unity in the rearguard. United support of the Peoples Front government. This is the road which will lead to great triumphs of the Peoples Front in all of Spain.

Long live the great Soviet people and their leader, Stalin!

Long live the heroic Spanish people and the Peoples Front which is leading us to victory!



A RUSSIAN WORKER, IN THE LAND OF JOBS FOR ALL



SOVIET WORKERS LISTENING TO A TALK ON SPAIN

FASCISTS CLOSE DOWN MORE SCHOOLS AS LOYAL SPAIN OPENS NEW ONES

The so-called "Bulletin of State", published in Burgos, on September 5th, contained a decree by virtue of which the following national and elementary schools were to be closed as from October 1st: Astorga, La Toja, La Estrada, Bujeda, Soria, Priego, Tudela, Trujillo, Carmona, Cazalla, Cervera del Rio Alhama, Olivas, Fregenal de la Sierra, Guernica, Haro, Cinca, La Robla, Medina del Campo, Medina de Rioseco, Miranda de Ebro, Nerva, Peñaranda, Portugalete, Reinosa, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Santona, Tafalla, Toro, Utrera, Vélez Málaga, and Villanueva de Lugo.

The closing was ordered of the School Institutes of Seville and Malaga.

In the preamble of the decree it is stated that as the war is costing a lot of money and that as expenses of a civil nature must therefore be reduced, it was thought advisable to enforce these cuts in the department of education.

EDUCATION ON THIS SIDE

Almost on the same day there appeared in the "Gaceta de la República" a decree calling for the establishment in Barcelona, Valencia, and Madrid of six-monthly courses of intensive preparation in subjects of general education.

In the same number of "Gaceta" there were two other decrees of an analogous tendency.

In the midst of a civil and international struggle, at a time when it is defending its territory inch by inch against international traitors and foreign invaders, the Republic does not for a moment neglect educational problems. Schools are run for the soldiers on all the fronts. The moment a new village is captured, teachers are sent and school buildings are restored. Not one single educational establishment has been closed; on the contrary, many new ones have been opened. For the Republic knows that battles are won not only by force of arms, but equally by awakening ideas and sowing knowledge in the brains of the young and the illiterate. The new generation, whose initiation to life has been accompanied by the roar of battles and the sound of bombs, will be grave and firm. They will look at life not as a sport, but as a mission of obligations. They will know the full meaning of the words "duty" and "responsibility", which the frivolity of the later days of the monarchy and of the dictatorship had deprived of all their value...

FASCIST CULTURE

On the 12th of October of last year, the day known as the "Festival of the Race", General Millan Astray stood on the steps of the University of Salamanca and cried: "Down with Intelligence!" Yes. The Fascists hate intellect. They hate books and science. They hate the universities and the kindergartens, where the tiny children being to understand the things around them. They hate everything connected with reflection, meditation, criticism, logic. Their ideal is a people held in ignorance and slavery, downtrodden and superstitious.

They close institutes. They suppress schools. And the number of gaming-houses and taverns is greater than ever...



KIDS LIKE THESE are attending the newly-opened schools in Government Spain. No need to describe what fascism does to these smiles. You've seen the shrapnel-torn faces...

IN MEMORIAM



HARRY HYNES

Company Political Commissar
in the

**George Washington
Battalion**

Killed in action at Brunete
JULY-1937

Original Goya Plates Being Reprinted

The Calcographic Department of the Ministry of Education and Fine Arts in Madrid is engaged in reprinting two of Goya's series of plates. They have collected the original plates of the 'Desastres de la Guerra' (Disasters of War) and of 'Tauromaquia' (Bull Fighting). The plates are steel-faced. An edition is being made of five prints on Antique Japanese paper, fifteen on imperial Japanese paper and 130 on arches paper. These 150 prints will be for sale. It is probably the last edition which will be taken off the original plates. They have not been reprinted for a long time. The first complete edition of the Disasters of War was printed in 1863, and Goya died in 1828, so there was never a complete edition printed in his life-time.

NEXT WEEK:

"NO AXE TO GRIND"

By

DOROTHY PARKER

Read What One of America's Outstanding Sati-
rists Has to Say About
Spain After A Recent
Stay Here.



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

organ of the international brigades



Vol. I - N.º 23

Madrid, November 15 - 1937

MADRID CELEBRATES DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY

For the past two weeks the population of Madrid has been celebrating a double anniversary: that of its own year of the glorious defense of Madrid, and the 20th year of the successes of Socialism in the Soviet Union.

A year ago November 7, Franco was waiting on his white horse at the gates of Madrid to gallop into the city, and, as he boasted, was prepared to "drink coffee and cognac in the Puerta del Sol".

November 7, 1917, 20 years ago, the masses of oppressed Russian people rose up and once and for all seized the reins of power. The coincidence that these two dates of the Spanish and Russian people's historic battles in defense of their liberties is considered very significant to all organizations of political, trade union, military, or social importance in Madrid. Each have contributed in one way or another to the widespread enthusiasm in the celebration of the halting of fascism at Madrid's doorsteps and to the general tribute paid to the Soviet Union. Many festivities were conducted by these organizations, including dancing, meetings, parties and the showing of Soviet films such as "Chapayev", etc.

IN FESTIVE MOOD

The thousands of banners and decorations that adorn the buildings and streets have given Madrid an unusually colorful appearance. On the huge

red streamers that are strung across the main streets, inscribed in large white letters, are slogans of honor and gratitude to the heroic antifascist fighters of Madrid, of Spain, and of the world united antifascist front as represented by the International Brigades. From almost all the poles along the borders of the sidewalk, in the centers of the main streets, and along the sides of the broad Madrid

paseos wave Republican flags and Red flags with the hammer and sickle in white. Pictures of the people's leaders — Negrín, General Miaja, Aznar, Díaz, "Pasionaria", Lister, "Campesino", and others — are seen between the two flags. A large red star is often the background of these pictures. Children can be seen with red star emblems on their lapel. The emblems bear a salutation to the Soviet people.

In both sides of the three arches of the huge arched structure that stands on the square of the Plaza de la Independencia, the loyal Madrileños have conspicuously arranged large portraits of Soviet leaders. On one side facing the Puerta del Sol are the pictures of Stalin, Voroshilov and Litvinov. On the opposite side are the portraits of Lenin, Kárlin and Molotov.

(Continued on page 8.)



MADRID'S FAMOUS ARCH on the Plaza de la Independencia, once a gate to Madrid, erected in 1778, which still bears the scars of Napoleon's cannon-fire of the "Dos de Mayo" of 1808. Here it is as it appeared on November 7, when all of Loyal Spain celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

IRISH VOLUNTEERS IN SPAIN

The story of the Irish in this War antedates the International Brigades. To Bill Scott, whose father soldiered in James Connolly's Citizen Army in the Irish Rising of 1916, falls the honor of being the first Irish fighter in Spain. He was with a Catalan column on the Aragon Front, some weeks before the International Brigades were formed. Incidentally, he never reached the Irish Unit. From the Thaelmann Battalion he went to Manguada's Brigades and was eventually invalided home, wounded. Other Irishmen fought in the Dumont and Thaelmann Battalions. Tommy Patton of Mayo and Bill Barry, late of Melbourne and formerly of Dublin, fell in action at Boadilla del Monte, early in December.

The first large contingent of Irish arrived at the Base in the middle of December, and were in action a week later with the XIV Brigade at Cordoba, and later at Madrid. At the end of January the survivors of all these formations were drafted

into the XV Brigade which had just been formed.

The Irish Unit was representative of all Ireland. Belfast and Derry sent their sons as well as Dublin and Cork, for the antifascist cause bridged Partition. All parties and professions were represented. Communist, Socialist Labour Party members and Republicans; dock-workers and teachers, farm-labourers and city-clerks. Their Commander was Frank Ryan, Irish Republican Army veteran, and a leader of the Left Wing Republican and Labour movement in Ireland.

They came primarily to fight Fascism, enemy not merely of the people of Spain but of liberty and progress the world over. They had added incentive in that a careerist ex-General, discredited in Ireland, had induced a body of Irishmen to go to fight for the traitor Generals, "in defence of Christianity". Irish honor thus besmirched they would redeem. Irish sympathy thus misrepresented they would express aright. So they threw their bo-

dies as battle-gages into the conflict in Spain.

The Unit fought in two Sections, and at one period there was a Third Section. While the First Section was on the Madrid Front in January a Second Section which was being formed at the Base was drafted to reinforce the Lincolns, not yet at that time at Battalion strength. Subsequently, a Third Section was for three months on the Cordoba Front with the 86th Brigade.

Contrary to opinions held by narrow nationalists, it was easy and natural for Irish and British workers to unite in the common struggle against Fascism. The unity forged between them on the battle-fields of Spain will have far-reaching results in their respective countries, in days to come. It was fortunate and fitting too that military exigencies should have brought the Second Irish Section to serve with the Lincoln Battalion. The Irish have played an important part in the history of America, and have contributed much to the

advancement of the American labor movement. And, there were already a number of Irish exiles, and Irish-Americans and Irish-Canadians with the Lincoln Battalion. Paul Burns, Boston labor journalist and Irish Republican Congress leader, afterwards twice wounded in action; Michael Blaser, better known in New York as Mickey Brown (subsequently killed at Jarama); Patrick R. McLoughlin, formerly of the Clan na Gael in New York; Stuart (Paddy) O'Neill of Vancouver (killed at Brunete), and veteran Joe Kelly.

Of the original members of that Second Irish Section which went into action with the Lincolns at Jarama, the survivors include the three Power brothers of Waterford, and the three Flaherty brothers of Boston, gallant fighters all. Peter O'Connor holds the record for the Irishman who came unhurt through the most engagements. Dinny Holden, 56 year old soldier from Carlow who "deserted" so often from the rear to the front lines, that he was eventually allowed to remain there; "Dublin" Hayes, the canny veteran whom every Section Commander wanted to have with him — all these and a few others survive.

Charley Donnelly, University student from Tyrone, young revolutionary poet and working-class militant, fell a few yards from the Fascist trenches in that terrible charge of the Lincolns on February 27. Hugh Bonar, rugged Donegal fighter, and Liam Tumillean who stowed away from Belfast, and hitch-hiked across Britain to "be with the boys in Spain"; Bill Henry, Belfast Socialist, a Company Commander — these and other Irish died in action at Jarama.

Outstanding among the Irish was "Kit" Conway, 38 year old Tipperary fighter. He had fought in the I. R. A. in the Anglo-Irish War of 1920-21, and subsequently joined the Irish Free State Army to carry out revolutionary work there. He had attained the rank of Battalion Commander before



THE IRISH POSE for a picture. Above is a group of Irish fighters in the Lincoln Battalion, taken while Lincolns were holding their long trench-vigil on the Jarama front. A number of these Irish comrades are now dead.

his activities were discovered and his resignation demanded. After a brief period in emigration in the United States, he returned to become one of the militants in the Communist Party of Ireland. He was in command of the First Irish Section at Cordoba in December, at Majadahonda in January, at Jarama in February. He was a competent leader, courageous almost to the point of recklessness. More than once, he exposed himself unduly in action to encourage some youngster whose nerve was wilting under a baptism of fire. The Irish suffered their greatest loss when "Kit" died of wounds received while directing the defence of Pingarron Hill on February 12.

Among other Irishmen who died there in those first days of the Fascist offensive was Rev. R. M. Hilliard, the "Boxing Parson" from Killarney who handled a rifle in the ranks until the gunners of a Fascist tank hit him at point-blank range.

Frank Edwards, school-teacher dismissed by the Catholic Bishop of Waterford for working-class activities, was wounded in the side by shrapnel at Las Rozas in January. He walked two hundred yards back, called for a stretcher for another wounded comrade, and collapsed from loss of blood. Two months later, he was one of the Third Irish Section on the Cordoba Front. Here on one occasion, he and Joe Monks of Dublin remained alone in a position to face and break a charge of Moors by slinging grenades into their ranks. Jack Nalty, Dublin rank and file leader and noted athlete, had one arm smashed and was wounded in the other and in the chest at Lopéra in December. He walked unaided three kilos back to a dressing station, and recovered to fight again through the Jarama campaign.

The Irish also played their part in the great Brunete offensive in July. Among the prominent comrades who fell during this month were Michael Kelly, young London-Irish leader, and William Beattie and William Laughlin, two workers, of different creeds, who at one time had been in opposing sectarian factions in

their native Belfast, until the common exploitation of the working-class showed them the road to working class-unity, and eventually to the front lines of the fight against Fascism. Here too died Bill Davis whose clenched fist shot up in salute as a machine-gun killed him at the storming of

Villanueva de la Canada. Paddy Duff of Dublin, Machine-gun Commander, saved his own life and that of stretcher-bearers at Brunete, when—wounded in the leg—he rolled into a shell-hole, and yelled the First Aid men back out of the zone of hurtling steel. Not even Tom Jones of

LETTER FROM SPAIN

ADDRESSED TO ALABAMA

Lincoln Battalion,
International Brigades,
November Something, 1937.

Dear Brother at home:

We captured a wounded Moor today.
He was just as dark as me.
I said, Boy, what you been doin' here
Fightin' against the free?

He answered something in a language
I couldn't understand.
But somebody told me he was sayin'
They nabbed him in his land

And made him join the fascist army
And come across to Spain.
And he said he had a feelin'
He'd never get back home again.

He said he had a feelin'
This whole thing wasn't right.
He said he didn't know
The folks he had to fight.

And as he lay there dying
In a village we had taken,
I looked across to Africa
And seed foundations shakin'.

Cause if a free Spain wins this war,
The colonies, too, are free —
Then something wonderful'll happen
To them Moors as dark as me.

I said, I guess that's why old England
And I reckon Italy, too,
Is afraid to let a workers' Spain
Be too good to me and you —

Cause they got slaves in Africa —
And they don't want' em to be free.
Listen, Moorish prisoner, hell!
Here, shake hands with me!

I knelt down there beside him,
And I took his hand —
But the wounded Moor was dyin'
And he didn't understand.

Salud,

Johnny

LANGSTON HUGHES

Wexford, devil-dare leader of the First Aid Section, who ever insisted on dressing a wounded man where he fell, dared disobey Duff's command! At Villanueva, too Paddy Murphy's chivalry almost cost him his life, when he tried to save women and children whom the Fascists were driving before them as cover in a sortie.

Death took its toll again in the victorious Aragon offensive in August. Among those who fell at Belchite was Jim Woulff of Limerick, killed by a grenade at the very moment the town was captured. Peter Daly, I. R. A. veteran from Wexford, wounded in the Anglo-Irish war, wounded at Jarama in February, wounded again at Cordoba in April, rose from the ranks, promoted for bravery in the field, until he attained the rank of Battalion Commander. He was the ideal working-class officer whose comradeship with his men did not lessen his command over them. He fell at the head of his Battalion at the storming of Purburell Hill, on the Aragon Front, on August 26. Not since the death of "Kit" Conway, who was of the same stamp, did the Irish Unit suffer such a heavy blow. Peter Daly's comrade, Paddy O'Daire of Donegal, still with us, has also won successive promotions for bravery and leadership in battle. He is now a Battalion Commander. With him others of the original Irish Unit survive. Thus, after almost a year's war in Spain "The Irish still remain". And the gaps are being filled. New recruits arrive — veterans and youths, men of different, and differing parties — here united in the common struggle.

Irish Fascist intervention in Spain ignominiously collapsed when the duped Catholic rank and file revolted on discovering that they were fighting not for Christianity but for Fascism. The Irish in the International Brigades remain — for they fight for the same cause for which they fought at home, for the overthrow of the enemy which is attempting to enslave not only the people of Spain but the whole human race. And so while there is an International Brigade there will be Irish fighters in Spain.

C. Q.



SHELL-SCARRED: A photograph taken of the world-renowned Cybele statue in Madrid, just after fascist shells had mutilated the jaws of one of the guardian lions.

I want to say first that I came to Spain without my axe to grind. I didn't bring messages from anybody, nor greetings to anybody. I am not a member of any political party. The only group I have ever been affiliated with is that not especially brave little band that hid its nakedness of heart and mind under the out of date garment of a sense of humour. I heard someone say, and so I said it too, that ridicule is the most effective weapon. I don't suppose I ever really believed it, but it was easy and comforting, and so I said it. Well, now I know. I know that there are things that never have been funny, and never will be. And I know that ridicule may be a shield, but it is not a weapon.

I was puzzled, as you may have been, about Spain. I read in our larger newspapers that

here was a civil war, with the opposing factions neatly divided into reds and whites—rather as if they were chessmen. Even I could figure out that there is something not quite right when Moors are employed to defend Christianity. Since I have been here, I have heard what the people in the streets say. Not many of them call it the "war". They speak of it as the "invasion". Theirs is the better word.

There cannot be, in all the world, any place like the city of Madrid today. It has been under siege for nearly a year. You read about besieged cities in medieval days and you say, how awful things must have been, thank goodness they don't happen now. It has happened in Madrid and it goes on happening. In a city as big and as beautiful and as modern as Washington, D. C.

NO AXE

DOROTHY

The dispatches say that there is not much doing on the Madrid front now—there is very little activity. It is what is called a lull. But all day long you hear the guns, the dull boom of the big guns and the irritable cackle of machine-guns. And you know that gunners no longer need to shoot just for practice. When there is firing, that means there is blood and blindness and death.

And the streets are crowded, and the shops are open, and the people go about their daily living. It isn't tense and it isn't hysterical. What they have is not morale, which is something created and bolstered and directed. It is the sure steady spirit of those who know what the fight is about and who know that they must win.

In spite of all the evacuation, there are still nearly a million people here. Some of them—you may be like that, yourself—won't leave their homes and their possessions, all the things they have gathered together through the years. They are not at all dramatic about it. It is simply that anything else than the life they have made for themselves is inconceivable to them.

Yesterday I saw a woman who lives in the poorest quarter of Madrid. It has been bombed twice by the Fascists; her house is one of the few left standing. She has seven children. It has often been suggested to her that she and the children leave Madrid for a safer place. She dismisses such ideas easily and firmly. Every six weeks, she says, her husband has 48 hours leave from the front. Naturally,

he wants to come home to see her and the children... She, and each one of the seven, are calm and strong and smiling. It is a typical Madrid family.

There are fifty thousand babies still here. All food is scarce, and dairy products are almost memories. But the Republican Government, all over the city, has stations where a mother may get milk and eggs and cereals for her baby, regularly without delay. If she has any money, she may buy them at cost. If she hasn't any she is given them. Doctors say that the little children of Madrid are better nourished than they ever were in the old days.

The bigger children play in the streets, just as happily and just as noisily as the children in America. That is, they play after school hours. For during siege and under shell fire, education in Republican Spain goes on. I do not know where you can see a finer thing.

Six years ago, when the royal romp, Alphonso, left his



"IT HAS HAPPENED in Madrid and it goes on happening."

fascist bombardment.

TO GRIND

PARKER

... racing cars and his racing stables and also left, by popular request, his country, there remained twenty-eight million people. Of them, twelve million were completely illiterate. It is said that Alphonso himself had been taught to read and write, but he had not troubled to bend the accomplishments to the reading of statistics nor the signing of appropriations for schools.

Six years ago, almost half the population of this country was illiterate. The first thing that the Republican Government did was to recognise this hunger, the starvation of the people for education. Now there are schools even in the tiniest, poorest villages; more schools in a year than ever were in all the years of the reigning kings. And still more are being established every day. I have seen a city bombed by night, and the next morning the people rose and went on with the completion of their schools. Here in Madrid, as well

as in Valencia, a workers' Institute is open. It is a college, but not a college where rich young men may go to make friends with other rich young men who may be valuable to them in business with them later. It is a college where workers, forced to start as children in fields and factories, may study to be teachers or doctors or lawyers or scientists, according to their gifts. Their intensive university course takes two years. And while they are studying, the Government pays their families the money they would have been earning.

In the schools for young children, there is none of the dread thing you have heard so much about -- depersonalisation. Each child has, at the Government's expense, an education as modern and personal as a privileged American school child has at an accredited progressive school. What the Spanish Republican Government has done for education would be a magnificent achievement, even in days of peace, when money is easy and supplies are endless. But these people are doing it under fire...

The Government takes care, too, of the unfortunates of war. There are a million refugee children in Spain. A million is an easy number to say. But how can you grasp what it means? Three hundred thousand of them are in the homes of families and seven hundred thousand are in children's colonies. When it can, the Government wants to have all in colonies. I hope that will happen, because I have seen some



STAYING CLOSE to the refugio, these women and children are fearful to venture back to their homes again lest another fascist air-raid bring them the same terror and death and destruction that they have just witnessed and escaped.

of the colonies. There is no dreadful orphan asylum quality about them. I never saw finer children -- free and growing and happy. One colony was in a seaside resort, near Valencia. There were sixty children, from four to fourteen, who had been going to a school in Madrid. And the Fascist planes had bombed the school...

It was amazing to see how many of these children could draw and draw well -- and it was heartening to see how their talent was encouraged by the teachers. When they first came to the colony, the children drew the things that were nearest and deepest to them -- they drew planes and bursting bombs and houses in flames. You could see by the dreadful perfection of detail, how well they knew their subjects. Now they are drawing flowers and apples and sail boats and little houses with

smoke coming out of the chimneys. They are well children now.

And in Valencia, a few miles away, the Fascist planes come over and the bombs drop, and so there will be more children who will draw planes and flames and fragments of bodies blown in the air. That is if there are any children left...

NO FUNNY STORIES

I can't get any pleasing variety into this talk. I can't tell you amusing anecdotes of the boys in the trenches. I don't think there are any such stories. The men who fight for Republican Spain, the men, who in less than a year have come from a mob wearing overalls and carrying sticks to a formidable disciplined army, are

(Continued on page 8.)



... worker's home on the outskirts of the city, just after a

BREAKING THE BACK OF REACTION IN NEVADA

Dear Comrade Editor:

Enclosed is a copy of part of a letter from home, which I think might be of interest to the readers of the "Volunteer"

In explanation, the thing which is of importance is that this territory has always been particularly difficult for labor organizations of any kind. Nevada has long been the last stand of the rugged individualists, having a mining industry which fluctuated wildly between bankruptcy and booms, a cattle and sheep-raising industry which depended as much on the vagaries of the market as on the vagaries of the weather, and finally, a pride in the maintenance of the "wide-open West" tradition. While Boca is near the California state-line, the action described in this letter proved an opening wedge for the CIO and militant white-collar unions in Nevada.

M. M.

DEAR M.

I'm starting to school on a shoestring. I worked part of the summer but didn't make any dough to speak of, which I shall explain.

A new dam is being built at Boca, where the Little Truckee River meets the Truckee about 28 miles west of Reno. I went to work up there

as a laborer about June 1, getting fifty cents an hour for a forty-hour week. A cheap outfit from Omaha, the Geo. Condon Construction Co., was in charge and there to make all they could, no matter how. They docked us time when they moved the shovels, etc.; 10 minutes here, 15 minutes there, and when Saturday afternoon rolled round they came to you and said, "Say, you have three hours and 40 minutes yet to go before you have your 40 hours in. Do you want to put it in tomorrow?" Well, what the hell could you say? You want to get paid for 40 hours, even if you have to put in 45 hours over a seven-day spread.

We stayed at the company's barracks and cookhouse, which cost \$1.25 a day, because there was no place else to stay, and the company made plenty on that too. Some of us boys got tired of all this, so hearing that some of the miners who were drilling a diversion tunnel on the job were CIO men, we contacted them. They were thinking of starting a local, so we said we would help get the ball rolling. We talked to almost all the men on the job privately, and they were willing to join up with us and get a local started. The inevitable fly in the ointment, the superintendent of the job, told us if we organized he would

shut the job down. We organized just the same.

We sent down to Frisco and got an organizer up, and in five hours we had 90 % of the men on the job signed up. The superintendent heard of it, came over to see and when we told him we had 90 % of the men signed up he didn't say a word. The next day at twelve noon we were informed by our respective bosses that we were all done, to get our money. We did, but we stayed in the bunkhouses. They tried to have us thrown out, but we wouldn't be thrown. They tried to scare us with the law, but we wouldn't scare. We were orderly and well behaved, so the law didn't have a thing they could pin on us.

Then the blow-off. They made a contract with the A. F. of L., dated it back, and shipped 67 men into the job, without telling them of the condition that existed. The men came up from Sacramento all prepared to work, and we were waiting for them. We had received news of their coming by one of the fellows that had heard of it at the quarantine station at Truckee. There were only 22 of us, but boy! we had the courage of 122. We all agreed to fight until we were carried away. When they arrived they had the sheriff and 17 deputies as bodyguards. We had a picket-line which was our first line of defense, about 10 guys, and then the second line which was composed of the rest of the fellows.

The organizer had a new Ford which he drove at about 50 in to the line of oncoming cars bringing the new men. They all had to swerve and stop, and he very effectively tied them in knots. Then Red Adams, the president of our local, climbed on the top of a car and told the men of the condition that existed and how determined we were that they nor no one else was going to take our jobs, and if they wanted to try it, we were ready. We were armed with pick handles, pieces of pipe, horseshoes or anything else we could pick up, and we meant business.

After Red's speech, a big fellow blurted out, "Who's going to stop me?" and charged the first line. One of our fellows smacked him on the chin with his fist, another hit him on the back of the head, a third kicked his feet out from under him — and he didn't come to for an hour. I thought sure this would start it, but not one of the fakers stepped up to give him a hand. The deputies all ran and got behind cars, despite the fact that they were armed, because the A. F. of L. fakers were too scattered to put up a good fight. The fakers all drew back and had a conference, and decided to go back to Sacramento immediately. Of course we were relieved and happy that they had elected to do the right thing by us and we thanked them. They wished us luck and left.

On Aug. 10 the company started negotiations with us to open the job again. We finally came to terms and got a contract for the duration of the job. The only catch for me was that I didn't get back to work soon enough before school started, but I couldn't walk out on the guys and find another job.

I don't know how much you know of the CIO, but here's why I'm for it. In the first place, the men as a body run the local, not the officers that you elect. No agreement can be signed without the consent of the body as a whole. In the A. F. of L. the officers can sign any agreement for the men without putting it to a vote; consequently the officers can and do sell out their own men — the rats! In the CIO the initiation fee is \$1.25 and the dues are \$1.25 a month, no matter what you are, laborer, dragline operator, miner, etc. The fakers charge all the way up to \$1000, according to who you are, and the dues per month run from \$2 on up — what a racket!

We're accused of being Reds, radicals, Communists, and everything else you can think of, but by God, if belonging to

(Continued on page 8.)



SPANISH SOLDIERS celebrating the double anniversary of the Russian Revolution and the successful defense of Madrid.

LETTERS from HOME

"—And That Democracy
Will Reign Again."

The following letter is from the Secretary of the Cardiff and District Unemployed Workers' Association, affiliated with the Cardiff Trades Council and Labour Party, to one of the members of the British Battalion of the 15th International Brigade.

"Dear Comrade: Let me thank you most sincerely for the greetings you send from the Cardiff comrades in the International Brigades and yourself, and let me send you the best wishes of the members of our Association in return.

"We all realize what depends on the result of the war in which you are engaged, and we are all very hopeful that you will be successful. We realize that should your opponents be victorious it would mean the end of the present British Government's opposition, and the weapon in their hands with which to beat us down. They would then be in the position to force us to do the very things we are at present opposed to doing, by forcing us to fight to save their interests at home and abroad.

"We also realize that unity among all working class organizations is required to defeat the National Gov't's present policy. As we are at present — divided, ununited — we are only defeating ourselves and giving the Government the chances they have been wanting. Were all organizations united we should be in a position to do something in regards to the present cost of living, which is soaring sky-high—15 per cent increase in three months.

"The question of unity has again been brought up at the Labour Party conference but was, I am sorry to say, heavily defeated; and also one of the champions of the United front threatened with expulsion from the Labour Party. That is the kind of thing we

BARCELONA NERVES

Neither fools nor children any longer,
Those ways, traits, gone and away
That once made life a luck-game, death a stranger,
We're going on.

Dynamo-driven city waiting bombers,
Roadways barricade-impaved, fear
In the torn minds, the mind remembers
What it's all for...

Death means the girl's corpse warm-alive when buried;
Death means the retching brothels, where on black
Death-tide, death-fear, an army of boys is carried
To a pox-wreck.

And life's a matter of beating this, of breaking
By own hardness, and a held hand, out
From fury, frustration, fear, the waiting, the shouting,
The hate of fate.

Neither fools nor children, we who are joining
(Twenty years ago I knew war's face)
We'll make what wrecks these others into our gaining,
Into our choice.

T. H. WINTRINGHAM

September, 1936.

here are faced with, and until the rank and file change the Personnel, this state of affairs will continue.

"On the question of non-intervention the opinion of the members is that the policy is a farce, done to assist the fascists' plans.

"Had it been a Fascist government, and the people fighting for control, there would have been no talk of non-intervention, but help would have been sent quickly.

"Well, Comrade, we are very glad to have heard from you and to know that you are alright and that Comrade M. is on the road to recovery. Remember, we are all with you in your declaration that you are going to win and that democracy will reign again.

"With sincere good wishes, I remain, for and on behalf of the members of the Association,

Yours fraternally, F. J. R.
COLES.

A Nine-Year-Old
Writes to his Father.

The following four letters are typical of a dozen or more written by a nine-year-old Birmingham boy to his father,

fighting here, over a period of almost a year. When you read these notes try to imagine the lop-sided, uncertain scrawl of a child, with all the curious misspellings, and the comical halts. "Peter writes", his father explains, "very much the way a three-day-old colt walks."



TEACHER: "90,000 soldiers plus 25,000 technicians. How many Italian soldiers does that make?"
CHICO: "40,000 volunteers!"

May 11th, 1937.

Dear father, Evry Body in England will be happy after 12 o'clock on May the 11th it will be coronation day. For before you left England Edward VIII left, the ex King. The king who is going to be crown by

the Archbishop of Canterbury will be George VI.

The wether in England has been fairly bad it has been wet and misarabul the last few days. All houses and streets and horses are trimmed up for coronation day the 12th of May remember if you do come back your King will be King George VI, and I can swim.

Sinded. —PETER.

★

June 23rd, 1937.

Dear Dad. I am very sorry you have got wounded right through the calf of your left leg. Well here is some more good news to tell you that I can ride my bike. I learnt in five minutes, uncle Jack taught me how to ride.

I think I have told you I am in the boy's brigade and I am to camp August week we go to wales it is only seven shillings and four pence to go it would cost more if mom took me.

Sind. —PETER.

★

September 25th, 1937.

Dear dad. I swam in a gala on Sept 24 and came third in a race. I saw Charlie Talor dive and his diving has gone of a lot. And last week I saw Pete at a gala and spoke to him and he said you better hurry up and come back. I have something to tell you. I can swim 16 lengths and jump of top board and I received you badge.

Signed. —PETER.

★

October 17th, 1937.

Dear dad. You may know there was a spanish flag day in England mom and me sold in it. Now mom said she would like to come to Spaine for a holiday after the war is over and I agreed.

Will you please send me a Spanish pence.

Mom said you are very brave to go.

Singed. —PETER to dad.

Madrid Celebrates Double Anniversary

(Continued from page 1.)

Elaborate and painstakingly-decorated floats ride all around the city all day long. Every trolley has five small Republican flags waving from the rods that connect the trolley pole with the street electric wires. Most public and many private buildings have been decorated with flags, banners, pictures, and large signs with antifascist and Popular Front slogans. Along the iron fence-work of the famous Madrid park "El Retiro" has been strung a huge red streamer, almost half a block long, greeting the Soviet Union on its 20th Anniversary. It pledges to carry on the fight against fascism. Among the buildings most attractively dressed up is the Bank of Bilbao, near the Puerta del Sol. Story-high paintings demonstrate the difference between the militiaman of the early days of the war and the People's Army soldier of today. On one side are poorly dressed militiamen with rifles in their hands behind a sand-bag parapet waiting to stop the fascists. On the other are shown the new uniformed People's Army soldiers charging with tanks, artillery, and aviation support.

Additional homage was paid the Soviet Union by an official change in the name of one of Madrid's streets, from "Avenida de Peñalver" to "Avenida de la Unión Soviética".

All of the Madrid daily papers devoted extra pages, and several put out special Anniversary numbers, in commemoration of the double Anniversary.

Americans all over Spain have also celebrated. Among one group of Americans, in the afternoon of Sunday, November 7th, there was a baseball and football game. After that they had a potato and a sack race. Packages of Lucky Strikes were distributed to the winners. After a good dinner in the evening, they planned a singing festival around a blazing camp-fire.

J. T.

NO AXE TO GRIND

BY DOROTHY PARKER

(Continued from page 3.)

no gangling lambs, endearingly bewildered as to what is which front and who is on whose side. These are thinking men, knowing what they do, and what they must go on doing.

They are fighting for more than their lives. They are fighting for the chance to live them, for a chance for their children, for the decency and peace of the future.

Their fight is the biggest thing, certainly, that we shall see in our time, but it is not a good show. This is no gay and handsome war, with brass bands and streaming banners. These men do not need such assurances. They are not mad glamorous adventurers, they are not reckless young people, plunged into a chaos. I don't think there will be any lost generation after this war.

But, I, as an onlooker, am bewildered. While I was in Valencia the Fascists raided it four times. If you are going to be in an air raid at all, it is better for you—if it happens at night. Then it is unreal, it is almost beautiful, it is like



a ballet with the scurrying figures and the great white shafts of the searchlights. But when a raid comes in the daytime, then you see the faces of the people, and it isn't unreal any longer. You see the terrible resignation on the faces of old women, and you see little children wild with terror...

In Valencia, last Sunday morning, a pretty, bright Sunday morning, five German planes came over and bombed the quarter down by the port. It is a poor quarter, the place where the men who work on the docks live, and it is, like

all poor quarters, congested. After the planes had dropped their bombs, there wasn't much left of the places where so many families had been living. There was an old, old man, who went up to every one he saw and asked, please, had they seen his wife, please would they tell him where his wife was. There were two little girls who saw their father killed in front of them, and were trying to get past the guards, back to the still crumbling, crashing houses to find their mother. There was a great pile of rubble, and on the top of it a broken doll and a dead kitten. It was a good job to get those. They were ruthless enemies to Fascism.

I have seen the farms outside of Valencia—the lovely green quiet farms. There is soil so fertile, since the Government has irrigated it, that it yields three harvests a year. So hospitable that oranges and beans and potatoes and corn and pomegranates all grow in one field. I have seen the people in the country and in the cities, wanting only to go about their lives, only to secure the future of their children. They ask only as much as you have, because they are people like you, they want to get up from their tables and go to their beds, to wake to a quiet morning, and the sending of their children off to school. They don't think of accumulated money. They want to do their own work in self respect and peace. They want the same thing that you have—they want to live in a democracy. And they will fight for it, and they will win.

But in the mean time it makes you sick to think of it. That these people who pulled themselves up from centuries of oppression and exploitation cannot go on to decent living, to peace and progress and civilization, without the murder of their children, and the blocking of their way because two men—two men—want more power. It is incredible, it is fantastic, it is absolutely beyond all belief... except that it is true.

IN MEMORIAM



MILTON HERNDON

Machine Gun Section
Commander
in the

Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion

Killed in Action
at Fuentes de Ebro
OCTOBER-1937

Breaking the Back of Reaction in Nevada

(Continued from page 6.)

the CIO is communistic, I'm the reddest, radicalst Communist you ever saw! We're just as American as the flag, and a hell of a lot more so than the fakers. We're ten times as democratic — maybe that's why Willie Green froths at the mouth and calls us Communists. We're showing the country a thing or two, and the men like it when they find out the facts.

When you get back I'll tell you more. This writing business isn't what you'd call down my alley; I can tell you informally much better.

GEORGE

NEXT WEEK:

SPANISH STUDENTS AND THE WAR

An account of the role of Spanish University students (F. U. E.) in the Spanish struggles from 1922 to the present day.



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

Organ of the international brigades ★

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SPANISH STUDENTS AND THE WAR

Spain has always had two types of student: those whose studies were pursued in order to acquire a title which would serve them as an adornment, a title generally secured through the influence



FRANCISCO TARANCON

One of the first students to enlist in the popular uprising against the fascists. Though hit by 14 fascist bullets and has a completely disabled right arm as a result of the wounds, he has insisted on resuming his cultural activities among the youth.

of their fathers; and those sons of petit bourgeois people and of workers, who understood the sacrifices of their parents, and who studied in order to learn, to become useful to their country and to humanity.

These two types of students were represented by two organizations. The first, whose principal diversion was in having good times, had a sort of fascist character. This organization was forever putting obstacles in the path of learning for the working peoples' sons and daughters.

Student Leader Recounts for the VOLUNTEER the Role of Spanish University Students in the Spanish Struggles from 1922 to the Present Day

The organization of students who were hard-working and serious, on the other hand, acquired the character of a student Union from the moment it took upon itself the job of bettering itself and the opportunities of real students in the universities. Cultural and sport activities were an integral part of the latter organization, known as the Federacion Universitaria Escolar (F. U. E.) the Federation of University Students.

FOUGHT DE RIVERA

The F. U. E. was organized in 1922, and it fought unstintingly against the Dictatorship of Primo de Rivera. It was one of the outstanding liberal organizations of that period in Spain's history, one that contributed much to the collapse of that dictatorship. Its activities included a number of student strikes, which culminated in the strike against the Faculty of Madrid, during which the students fought against the police for several hours, answering the cops' pistol fire by throwing bricks and iron bars from the red-tiled roofs of the University buildings. The then Director General of Security, General Mola — now dead — enforced a cruel repression against the students, arresting many and closing the University, impeding and thus ending

the course. But the battle was won. In a short time the Dictatorship had to repress all of Spain. In two years the Monarchy also fell, after the April 12th elections in which the Spanish people unmistakably made known their real desires and aspirations.

14 YEARS LATER

On the 18th of July, 1936, the traitorous generals rose against the government, attempting to place it in the hands of Hitler and Mussolini, who were not content with having enslaved their own countries, but wished to do the same with a people which has always fought savagely for its independence. These generals did



MANUEL BALCASON

Present General Secretary of the F. U. E. of Madrid (Federation of University Students).

not count on the resistance of the Spanish people, the peasants and the workers. All good Spaniards rose against these self-styled "nationalists" to smash fascism in Spain. In this crisis the students could not fail to take part. They, who had always fought against oppression, promptly placed themselves alongside of their brothers from the fields and the factories.

The F. U. E. immediately decreed a mobilization of students for the Peoples Army. Despite the occurrence of the rebellion at that season of the year when there were no classes, 90 per cent of its members responded to the call. There were, 1,200 students who volunteered, with the place of mobilization only in Madrid.

MANY ADVENTUROUS

This mobilization took into account the knowledge of each student, age and sex. And the following sections were formed: artillery, infantry, sanitary service, shoemakers supply department technical and auxiliary services. There were many students who were so adventurous that they could not for long be content with one type of work: these drifted from one section to another, seeking places where their knowledge and abilities would be of greatest use. Others joined up despite parental opposition and many other obstacles.

One young student, Correo, Mr.

(Continued on page 6)

CHINESE GENERAL SEES WORLD PEACE THREATENED; SPEAKS OVER MADRID RADIO

"The Chinese people for a long time have wanted a United China in order to fight against the Japanese invaders", stated the Chinese General, Yang Hu Cheng, Governor of Shanshi Province, when, recently, he was in Madrid. In the bomb-proof studio of Madrid's EAR, two stories below the street, the General answered questions over the radio on China and Spain. He agreed to do so because, he said, he realized that in these countries is being settled the immediate future of the world—peace or war.

General Yang, it will be remembered, played an important role in the Sian Fu Movement last December 12th which accelerated the movement for an All-China united front for the struggle against Japanese aggression in China. The General, himself, has for a number of years been in the forefront of the Chinese People's demand for internal unity.

The General said, "The motive of the peace movement on December 12th last year at Sian Fu was in harmony with the wishes of the Chinese people to make China united. And the result of this movement was a united China".

He then added, "It was the cry of the Chinese people which was responsible for Sian Fu movement. Though this accident met many new obstacles, in the end it succeeded with its first desire to stop the Civil War in China. It was not only a strong movement for an internal peace front to oppose Japan in China, but it also was a movement to strengthen the peace forces of the world. Afterwards the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party made their peace and worked together for an All-China united front.

"The first step in the move-

ment for a Chinese united front was for the Kuomintang and the Communist Party of China to resolve their differences and to adopt a common program against the Japanese. And I wish to emphasize the importance of the necessity of resolving those differences and the adoption of a common program against the Japanese if our united front was to be successful."

In answering the questions as to his purposes in coming to Spain, and as to whether he thought there was any connection between the Japanese invasion of China and the Italo-German invasion of Spain, General Yang told his radio listeners that his purpose in coming to Spain is a twofold one. "First of all", he said, "the war in China is so similar to the war in Spain; both nations have been invaded by fascism.

"It is my intention to learn from the experiences of the Spanish people in their war against fascism and to apply these experiences to our own struggle against Japanese fascism. And because Spain and China have the same enemies, There is a definite connection between the war in both of these countries. I am here in order to further cooperation between them, so that we may hasten the day of our ultimate victory. For the victory of China is a guarantee of peace in the Far East. The victory of Spain is a guarantee of peace in Europe. And one of the guarantees of a Chinese victory is the victory of Spain and likewise one of the guarantees for a Spanish victory is the victory of China."

Asked in what way the United States was concerned in the Sino-Japanese War, and as to whether there is a possibility that the United States will be eventually involved in the fray, General Yang said, "Today fascist East and fascist West have madly invaded Spain and China. Here we are already faced with a very serious threat to world peace by these invasions.

"But it is an even more dangerous threat to world peace if the democratic nations isolate themselves from these conflicts and permit the aggressor nations to continue their invasions unmolested. For instance, for the Uni-

ted States aloofness from the Sino-Japanese conflict will result not only in a threat to her leadership in the Pacific, but also in the loss of her interests and investments in China and in the Pacific. In the end the United States will find it impossible to stay out of a greater war which will occur as a result of Japan's present policy of expansion."

"Therefore, in order for the peace-loving American people to prevent this threat of becoming involved in a world war, they must not isolate themselves from the events which are happening in China. The majority of the American people have energetically expressed their opposition to fascism. Recently, President Roosevelt pointed out that it was impossible to localize any conflict, no matter in which part of the world it began, and he stated, correctly, that the United States cannot stand aloof from any of these conflicts. From this speech we can see that America is trying to take a further step and an active attitude in connection with the Sino-Japanese War. It is not definitely necessary for America to aid China by the use of military force. The way for America to help China is to exert pressure on Japan through an economic boycott of Japanese goods. This will deal a severe blow to Japan's hopes of continuing her invasion in China."

"All Six Footers, Tough Mountaineers"

A significant highlight on our rearguard activities against the fascist invaders is revealed in a letter written by an American now active on the Extremaduran front.

"The other day", he writes, "I spoke with — members of a band of guerrilleros who had just come out of the mountains on a short mission. They carry on constant partisan warfare behind the enemy's lines. With the band was a very business-like and attractive young partisan girl. She carried a big cat on her hip.

"The entire band was the finest-looking group I've seen in all of Spain. All six-footers, tough mountaineers."



USE OF THE thousands of Chinese soldiers, armed with hand-grenades, fighting like the Spanish People's Army soldiers, against foreign aggression and fascist invasion.

EDEN PREPARES A FURTHER BETRAYAL

On the night of November 12, fascist broadcasting stations all over the world were jubilant. The stations at Berlin and Rome broadcast for more than an hour in English. The stations at Toledo, Seville, Salamanca, Gijon hoarse with joy.

And what was the cause of this triumphant chorus? Have the fascists taken Madrid? Have they, with the help of German and Italian troops and arms won some resounding victory on one of the fronts? No, they have not taken Madrid, and the small gains they made in the Aragon a few days ago, were lost to them a couple of days afterwards when the Government forces counter-attacked.

Are Germany and Italy sending more men and more guns to the fascists in Spain? They are, but this is not the cause of fascist jubilation. German and Italian conscripts have met defeat before now, at the hands of the Government forces, and will again.

EDEN IS CAUSE

Mr. Eden and his Foreign Office have provided a reason for the fascist rejoicings.

It is more than a year now since the German and Italian governments, anticipating the fall of Madrid, hastened to recognise the Burgos "government". It was the dearest wish of the British Tory government to do likewise, but the fear of a similar demonstration to that which greeted the Hoare-Laval Pact, when they had decided to betray Abyssinia, caused the reactionaries to hold their hand for the time being; but the tortuous, twisted course of British foreign politics for the past year has been directed to one end — the achieving by subterfuge that which could not be done openly.

FIRST BRITISH AGENT

There has arrived in Salamanca a representative from Britain to the rebel "government". This is to be the first of a number of British "agents" who will be stationed in the most important towns in rebel territory "to watch over British interests". The British Government will not call these "agents" consuls, which in effect and intention, they are, as this would involve open recognition which the British people would be in no temper to tolerate.

What does British Imperialism hope to gain by this move? To Britons enrolled in the Spanish People's Army the expectations of the Tories will be plain. From the beginning the British Government has hoped for, and worked for, in its own way, a Franco victory. The large scale intervention on the part of fascist Italy and Germany has placed the Government in a dilemma, for the entrenchment of these two countries in Spain would threaten its communications both with Africa and India, its two main sources of Imperial tribute. By its new move, and those which will follow it, it hopes, while endeavouring to secure a victory for Franco, to separate him from his allies, particularly Italy, which it regards as the principal menace to its Imperial trade routes.

BRITAIN'S PLANS TODAY

What chances has this plan of meeting with success?

It is certain that Portugal, while it has lent itself to the designs of fascist Italy, views with no great pleasure the installation of



MR. EDEN

The political schemer and manipulator for the interests of British Tories. Having deceived France and juggled the Spanish war question with Hitler and Mussolini, he is now plotting for a Franco victory with the view of gaining concessions of mines and other Spanish economic resources.

a raging and ever more greedily tiger on its doorstep, and would welcome the intervention of its old "ally" Great Britain.

Hitler whose entire policy has been directed towards the preparation for a great war of con-

GRAN EN

British Hospital, Aragon front, September 1936.

*Too many people are in love with death
And he walks thigh-proud, never sleeps alone;
Consider him neighbour and enemy, both
Hated and usual, best avoided when
Best known.*

*Weep, weep, weep! say machine-gun bullets, stating
Mosquito-like a different note close-by;
Hold steady the lamp, the black, the torn flesh lighting
And the searching knife; carry the stretcher; wait,
Eyes dry.*

*Our enemies can praise death and adore death;
For us endurance, the sun; and now in this night
The electric torch, feeble, waning, but close-set,
Follows the surgeon's fingers. We are allied with
This light.*

T. H. WINTRINGHAM

quest, has repeatedly stated that in such a war Germany could not hope to be successful, without the aid, or at least the benevolent neutrality, of the British Empire. There is, therefore, good reason to believe that if he thought there was a chance of making a deal with Britain, he would not hesitate to jettison his Italian confederates.

It goes without saying that Franco would lend himself to the design of giving himself some semblance of mastery in the territory it is hoped may be won for him.

So far, so good.

MUSSOLINI'S HOPES

But what of Italy? Will Mussolini be willing to meekly surrender all that on which he has staked so much? The Balearics, the positions commanding Gibraltar, the naval and submarine bases on the Spanish coasts? Will he surrender without fight the minerals he has, and those he hopes to get? Mr. Eden is crazy if he thinks he will.

Furthermore, there are at least two other factors which Eden has left out of account — the British people and the Spanish people. As the line of the British Government becomes constantly more openly pro fascist, so the antago-

nism to it grows in the Labour Party and in the masses of people not yet allied to any political party. And the British Government is presuming when it assumes that Franco is going to win this war. We who are here in Spain have every reason to doubt that he can, even with the aid of Italian conscripts and German arms. And even the moral support of the British Government will not avail him much against the growing power of the Spanish People's Army.

The British Government will not achieve its objects in Spain, but its policy is fraught with danger for the peace of the world. The British Tory Government, like that of Hitler and Mussolini, is a Government of war, and must be quickly removed if world peace is to be preserved.

O. C. G.

Spanish Government Invites Lloyd George

The Spanish Republican Government has invited the former British Prime Minister, Lloyd George, to visit loyal territory in Spain. It is expected that he will accept the offer.

COPIC, COMMANDER OF OUR 15th BRIGADE



Commander COPIC

Although the men in the battalions which comprise the 15th Brigade look upon Brigade Commander Copic as an Anglo-American by adoption, little is known among us of his exciting and varied life. His long connection with our brigade—from Jarama, through the Brunete and recent Aragon offensives—has naturally made this stocky leader a familiar figure among us. We have seen him in many aspects; and it is always a surprise to newcomers in the battalions to see his square-jawed, serious face, set in severe lines of concentration, break suddenly into the most friendly and jovial of smiles. And many of us know him in another mood: we have heard him sing, at headquarters and in the trenches alike. He himself is quite frank about this. "I love to sing," he says; and he adds: "I sing even at the front". He invariably leaves to his associates the job of reminding him that during brigade actions he is too intent upon the task of coordinating the effective fire of every unit against the enemy to think of any other sound but that of artillery, machine-gun and rifle fire.

Well, that's a long introduction, but it doesn't even begin to reveal our commander in all of his many qualities. Most of us will, if we

have not already done so, find these out for ourselves. Meanwhile, perhaps a bare recital of the facts of his life will help.

Vladimir Copic was born in 1891 into family of a small tradesman, in the town of Senj in Croatia (previously in Austria, now in Yugoslavia). The family was poor. His father, the owner of a small tailor shop, couldn't feed his family of thirteen children out of his meagre earnings. All of these children, therefore, had to start working at very early ages, and all of them worked hard.

Thanks to a scholarship, which he received while he was still in grade school, Vladimir Copic was enabled to attend high school and eventually to register for a college course of study. He was the only one of all his brothers and sisters who was able to do this.

EARLY ACTIVITIES

"As a student", he says, "my record was varied—sometimes my grades were excellent, sometimes very poor".

As a student, too, he took an active part in the revolutionary student movement, which had as its principal task the fight for national independence of the Croatian people oppressed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In connection with his participation in the student movement he was arrested in Zagreb for the first time in 1912.

The outbreak of the World War found him in the ranks, a soldier in the Austrian Army. It was only a year later, in 1915, that he was taken prisoner in Russia. While a prisoner in Russia he became familiar with Marxian literature. And from 1917 on he worked for the Revolution, which he recognized through his newly-found

knowledge to be the gateway to freedom for the Russian people, among the war prisoners.

AFTER 1917

And now we will let Commander Copic tell a part of his story himself:

"Towards the end of 1918 I went to Yugoslavia, where I took an active part in the labor movement... Because of my participation in the labor movement, I was frequently subjected to persecution. In 1919 I was on trial for organizing a campaign of solidarity with the Hungarian Commune. In November, 1920, I was elected to the Parliament, but six months later I was expelled and placed on trial. Two years in jail was the sentence.

"Later, in 1925, as the secretary of the Independent Labor Party in Croatia, and as the editor of the labor paper, *The Struggle*, I was again sentenced—this time to three and a half years in prison. This time, however, I was able to escape from prison. But since then I have had to live in emigration from my native land."

ARRIVAL IN SPAIN

Vladimir Copic came to Spain in January, 1937, to join the Peoples Army. Towards the beginning of February he reached the Jarama front, as Political Commissar of the Fifteenth Brigade; and after a couple of days of very heavy fighting around the Jarama, he took over the command of the Brigade.

During the July offensive of the Peoples Army around Brunete, he was wounded by shrapnel from an airplane bomb.

This is far from a satisfactory biography of Commander Copic. It is merely the skeleton of a biography, the outline of an active and productive career, the stuff of which biographies can be written. But these few notes, with very little detail to round them off and fill them in, are ample indication of the kind of life our Commander has lived.

He has never ceased to learn, to satisfy that consuming hunger for knowledge which is most often found among people who have known bitter poverty, people who have had to fight and toil and sweat for their education. He learned English while he was a prisoner in Russia. "At the same

time", he explains, "since I learned it myself, from a book, I do not understand it as well as I might when it is spoken, particularly when it is spoken rapidly". Because of his work in Spain with English and American and Canadian comrades, he feels that his knowledge of the English language has increased considerably.

In addition to his native tongue, Croatian, he speaks Russian, Ger-



man and Czech well. He can read all Slavic languages. In addition to English, but, he adds, "not so well", he speaks Spanish, French and Italian.

Back home we would call this, I suppose, a thumbnail sketch. Whatever it is called, it is the essential record of a man who has been with our Brigade longer than any of us, who has led and directed it through one great defensive period and two great offensives, and who is now preparing us for whatever lies in store. The Americans in the Brigade call him "an American by adoption". If any of the other nationalities in our brigade make similar claims on him, it will be an inter-brigade battle for his adherence. But through it all, you may be sure, despite his pleasure at the various adoptions, he'll be working away at those things which, in or out of battle, are the things which bring victory to the Brigade, to the Peoples Army, and to the government of the Spanish people.

Japanese Ambassador Gets Hot Reception

When the Japanese Ambassador arrived in a New York port on the ocean liner "Europe of Okura" last week, he was greeted by a huge storm of anti-Japanese demonstrators.



An interview between the two "unknown" aggressors.

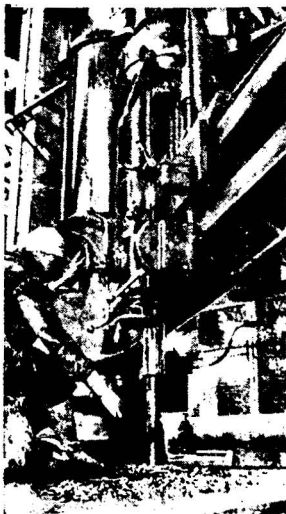
FROM MADRID TO AMERICA

A Radio Address on Spain and its People

I am happy to greet the people of America, particularly the Negro people, tonight from this center of heroic struggle against fascism. It might seem odd that I should thus characterize this fight, but one's first and last impression here is just that. It is not only a civil war -- not only a war against Franco -- but a fight to keep fascism from engulfing a people for whom democracy is dearer than life itself.

I came to Spain to try to understand the significance of this war to the minority peoples of the world who have suffered so severely already from fascist brutality and propaganda. I cannot tell you much, for I have been in Spain but a week and there are others here tonight who will speak more authoritatively. But a new comer's reactions may have some value.

Reactions tremble over one another -- they come so thick and fast. In these minutes I can only tell you a few. I feel at home here though one is in the midst of the strain of a war ridden country. Though my Spanish is miserably inadequate, I am able to talk to the people. We have a common language. They are fighting oppression and I come from a people whose op-



TWENTY YEARS AGO Russian women were perplexed by the intricacies of machinery; today they are the masters of them.

FRIENDS OF THE
MACKENZIE-PAPINEAU
BATTALION IN SPAIN

MISS B. COLLE EXEC. DIR. NATIONAL OFFICE PHONE WA 1438

1000 17th St. N.W. Washington, D.C.

October 26, 1937.

TO ALL CANADIAN COMRADES IN SPAIN

Salud, Comrades!

Greetings from your "rearguard" organization and an expression of the great pride we feel in the record you have made in Spain upholding the traditions of Democracy against the ruthless Fascist attempt to bind the world into chains of slavery.

Comrades, we have a request to make of you in the Front -- one that will greatly assist us in the work here. It is a matter of establishing communication between comrades over there and ourselves.

You can hardly vision the demand which comes to us for first hand information from you. The people of Canada from coast to coast want to know daily what you are doing. May we suggest to you the following:

1. That you keep in constant touch with relatives and friends. Echoes of rumors which you know so well in Spain are heard here and oft-times are the cause of much unnecessary worry.
2. That you write to this office as often as you can find time and material, telling experiences and mentioning other Canadians who may be in hospital with you. Also we would like pictures (especially of Canadians), bulletins, articles of publication, etc. which can be used in publicity.
3. Write the newspapers in the locality you come from. They are interested and glad to get material. Experience has proven that invariably donations are sent in following such publication. Don't forget to write your union local and other organizations to which you belonged.

Comrades, if you can do this it will assist us tremendously. And may we assure you that we will do our best to see that you do not lack of the comforts which it is possible to send over. Organization is being enlarged and a Dominion-wide tour is beginning soon. If we can do but half as good a job as you are doing over there it will be a tremendous success.

Canada is proud of you. Carry on! We are with you.

Salud, Camaradas.

BEATRICE COLLE
Secretary.

The above letter was sent to I. B. with the request that it be transmitted to all Canadian comrades in Spain.

pression is centuries old. I am a part of their feeling against the Italian fascism which has participated in the devastation of their country, because we in America felt keenly the devastation by the same forces of Ethiopia. I sense their determination to maintain democracy in Spain, because in America we Negroes have been striving for democratic rights since the days of slavery.

Though the Moors are today a part of Franco's fighting forces, I find no racial propaganda in Spain. Our Negro boys who are fighting in the Inter-

national Brigades are loved by the Spanish people. One encounters none of the racial prejudice so characteristic of one's own country. A victory for fascism in Spain would change all this. The conclusion can only be therefore, that all of us who as minority peoples are victimized by fascism, all of us who believe in the principles of democracy have the duty of supporting this fight of the Spanish people with all that we have. It is our common struggle.

LOUISE THOMPSON

World Anti-Fascist Women Delegation Visit Spain

"One of the most inspiring experiences in our visit to Spain has been our reception by the International Brigades", a spokesman for the delegation representing the Women's World Committee Against War and Fascism said in Madrid.

The delegation, consisting of Bernadette Cattaneo, secretary of the World Committee, Marcelle Leroy, secretary of the Belgian committee, Maria Rebate, secretary of the French committee, Hilda Vernon, British secretary and Miriam Arceri of the Italian Committee, visited various Battalions of the I. B. after attending women's anti-fascist Congresses in Valencia and Barcelona.

INTENSIFY WORK

"We promise to intensify our work to assure the opening of the frontiers and respect for International Law, and win ever greater support for Republican Spain", Miss Cattaneo said.

"Nothing but the devotion of the I. B. men could be more inspiring than the Womens' Congress in Barcelona", explained Miss Vernon, member of the group. "There a real united front of all the important women's organizations in Catalonia, was formed behind the policy of the government". She intends to return to England to tell women there also of the important role I. B. men played in the Aragon during recent campaigns.

10,000,000 MEMBERS

"For Peace and Freedom", is one of the main slogans of the World Committee which the delegation represents, an organization with 10,000,000 women as members and 20 popular illustrated periodicals being issued in its name. "For defense of Mother and child" is another.

"The fight for democracy in Spain is certainly a fight for peace and freedom" Miss Vernon, British representative said. "And after seeing the manner in which the fascist wage ruthless war against the peaceful civilian population, can anyone doubt that the fight of Spain is one for the defense of Mother and child throughout civilization!"

SPANISH STUDENTS IN THE WAR FOR CULTURE

(Continued from page 1.)

was fifteen years old when he joined the first fighters on the front. He was called back by his father. He had claimed to be seventeen years of age when the first F.U.E. call was issued. After his recall, he was assigned to the shoemaking service, where it was thought he would be safe; but he found, with his extreme youth and enthusiasm, that this branch of the service was intolerable to him. Finally it was agreed that he go into the infantry; here he remained until his father again decided to call him back for not being of age to do front line duty.

SANDBAGS FOR PILLOWS

After two weeks, this young student ran away from his father's home and joined a shock brigade. He went with the Campesinos, where he remained until his father again located him. Once again in Madrid, he sought to return to front line duty. To wind up this story without describing a dozen addition recalls and escapes to the front in which he participated, let it be known that today this young student-fighter can be found in an artillery information service of the Army of the Center. There is much doubt



CARRANCO

A student of the Sciences. When the war began, he immediately organized a Battalion called the "Joven Guardia" (Youth Guards) which fought on the Extremaduran and Sierra fronts. Just before his death he was made Commander in Chief of Operations of the First Army Corp.



UNIVERSITY, peasant, industrial, and white-collar youth — all behind the same miles of sand-bag parapets raised in defiance of the fascists.

about his being recalled again now, a year and a half after the war first began. His father has given him up as "impossible". Cases like this could be multiplied by the dozens.

Another curious incident occurred in the shoemaking branch on the very first day it went out. The section's destination was Pozuelo, where the men were quartered in small tents where there was very slight comfort. These tents were pitched in an open field, behind a fair to middling sandbag construction. Things went well until it occurred to one of the students to use a sandbag as a pillow; for this purpose, he appropriated one of the sand-bags on the parapets. Immediately we all made haste (I had the honor of fighting in this section) to imitate them. You can figure out for yourself the surprise and desperation of the technicians when they checked up on fortifications early the next morning and discovered the students all peacefully asleep on their sand-bag pillows and the sector completely in the open, unprotected. The fas-

cists must have been sleeping too or there would have been no students to ball out. As it was, the remarks of the technicians to the students were far from flattering. We worked all day to repair the damage and correct our slight lax. That night however, instead of sleeping on sand-bags in a tent, we discovered a house which gave us better protection without exposing us to enemy fire or the foolish temptation to which we had succumbed the previous night.

YOUTH FRONT

All of these sections later formed the Battalion of the Youth Front. Together with most of the other youth organizations these battalions today form the 68th Mixed Brigade. If one asks how the students in this battalion conducted themselves in battle it is enough to say that a company composed of members of F. U. E. when placed in defense positions at Usera prompted the commander to state that their presence was a guarantee that their positions would be well defended.

Among these student companies a petition was composed and addressed to the National Minister of Defence requesting that the comrades in command be given the rank of Lieutenant without having to go through the Popular War School. It is testimony to their abilities that this request was immediately granted. Further proof of the students' excellent military conduct is the statement completely borne out by all observers, that seventy-five percent of the students who volunteered as militiamen during the first days of the war have made outstanding names for themselves in the Popular Army, holding down numerous ranking positions from that of Lieutenant upward.

LEADING POSITIONS

There are Political Commissars, heads of brigades and divisions, aviators, doctors, etc. Other students, unable to bear arms because of extreme youth or physical infirmity or disability, have directed activities of a cultural nature among the peasants, in the factories, and in the barracks. There is a student in the Popular University in Madrid who is General-Secretary of the F. U. E. Three thousand workers attend this uni-



JOSE GARCIA

Student of Philosophy and one of the founders of the F. U. E. of Madrid. He was President of the U. F. E. H. and a Political Commissar in the famous 5th Regiment before he was killed in battle last year.



WHEN THE STUDENTS of Madrid temporarily dropped their books and pens to rush to the mountains and to the gates of the city flinging their un-armed bodies against the surging Moors and Italian fascists, many of their most notable leaders fell. To the left is the photo of Nazario Cuartero, former leader of the Right wing student movement of the "Old Guard" during Primo Rivero's dictatorship. He was expelled from the reactionary student organization because of his vigorous anti-fascism. After fighting on many fronts, he fell on the Escorial front the first day of November, last year. To the right is shown the picture of Juan Marco, one of the principal organizers of the F. U. E. in Castellon. He was a militant member of the Union of Communist Youth and took active part in the pre-war clandestine revolutionary movement; he performed leading services in the October Rebellion of 1934. He was commanding Lieutenant of a Battalion of Militiamen before he fell on the Teruel front last year. The Battalion in the 13th International Brigade which bears his name has a brilliant record of battles at Teruel and the Southern fronts.

versity at a time, receiving instruction which is invaluable in our fight against fascism. Just as in dealing with students in military positions, I do not think it necessary to mention names, because all of those who have placed all of their knowledge and enthusiasm to the job of combating fascism have done a job of enlightenment which will live beyond their single individual efforts.

During the year and a half in which we have fought, many students have fallen, all pursuing their duties as Spaniards. Many have had responsibilities which they have held with honor until death. Among the fallen are the names of many of the leading members of our organization. Among these we can cite the names of Carrasco Cuartero, Lopez, Loma, Pedro Escudero, Lapiana. Not only have we suffered the final casualties of warfare; many of us have been made cripples in extreme youth, defending that which was theirs, living examples of courage and self abnegation for those who still continued to answer the call to bear arms in the defense of our country.

COMRADE TARANCON

We can mention the name of comrade Tarancon, 17 years of

age. He was among the first to go out to fight fascism at the beginning of the rebellion in the Sierras. It was there that he fell, pierced by fourteen bullets fighting against the mercenary troops that came from Burgos, Valladolid and Segovia. Today, comrade Tarancon's right arm is useless. Despite this he insisted many times on returning to the front. After continuous refusals, he insisted on being given a teaching post just behind the trenches. At present this comrade is President of the Union Profesional de Estudiantes de Bachillerato.

The girl students have known how to help their comrades. Among the girls so many have been outstanding as to make it impossible to mention their names in a short article. They have worked in factories, directing themselves the production of cloth and clothes for the fighters. Among them are many nurses at work just behind the lines. Others, like their fellow students, go into the factories and the fields, giving classes to the workers and the peasants.

The Spanish students have indeed shown that they can exchange the pen for the sword, their books for rifles.

JOSE-LUIS FERNANDEZ

Irish Fighters Back Home Call For Support of Loyal Spain

Thirteen Irish volunteers in the Spanish Peoples Army, repatriated after having been wounded in Spain, have issued a vigorous statement calling for the complete support of Republican Spain by the Irish Free State Government. The thirteen are William Scott, Terence Flanagan, James Prendergast, Joseph Monks, Patrick Smith, Sean Goff, Patrick Duff, Frank Edwards, William Bower, Peter O'Connor, James O'Beirne, Donal O'Reilly and Jack Nalty.

"We... wounded members of the Irish Unit serving... with the Spanish Republican Army feel that it is now necessary to raise our voices", the statement declares, "in a direct appeal to the Irish nation. In the name of our fifty comrades whose graves dot the Spanish battlefields, in the name of our comrades still in action, we speak in behalf of their cause."

CITE EXPERIENCES

The statement goes on to describe the extensive pro-fascist propaganda which flooded Ireland at the outbreak of the treasonable revolt against Republican Spain, and how, despite this barrage of lies, so many young Irishmen left their native land to fight with the people of Spain against the traitorous generals.

"Our experience in Spain", they continue, "has convinced us that we were right in taking the step we did. We saw for ourselves that the propaganda still being circulated here (in Ireland) was a grotesque misrepresentation. We say to the Irish people that there is

no 'Red mob' in Republican Spain; that all parties have united to defend the Republic, so that the Spanish people may freely determine their own destinies in the future...

ONLY ONE SIDE

"There can be only one side for the Irish people! And it is the side that has been shamefully traduced. As yesterday, so it is to-day. The lordlings and generals, with the wealth and might ones of the earth behind them, have made the world ring with new 'Scullabogues' and 'Wexford Bridges'; the men in frieze-coats and dungarees, the poor teachers and scholars, cannot be heard, though every fact attests the justice of their cause.

"We call on the Irish people, then, to rise up against the Preas lords and unscrupulous politicians who are misleading us now as they misled us before. We call on the Government of the Free State to end its subservience to this powerful and noisy group, and to grant the Spanish Republic the full re-



cognition it had before the conflict.

"We demand this in the name of our comrades who have died to redeem this nation's honour, in the name of our comrades who are ready yet to die, and in the name of the traditions handed down by our National Fathers."

Was The Chairman's Face Red?

You've probably heard this one (or read it) before, but we think it's good enough to hand down to posterity. It happened one night, at an investigation of the Communist Party in Massachusetts:

Among others called upon to give evidence before the Commission was Earl Browder, and during the evidence the following occurred:

A certain senator asked: "Mr. Browder, does the Communist Party have any secret organization within its ranks?"

"It has not."

"It has not?"

"No."

"Then", said Mr. Burke, "will you tell me just what the connection is between the Communist Party and the Boogawahzies?"

"The what...?"

"The Boogawahzies", said the senator.

"We've never heard of the Boogawahzies", said Mr. Browder.

"Why", said the senator, "everyone of your writings refers to them, but we haven't been able to locate the Boogawahzies."

"He means", put in the chairman, "the bourgeoisie!"

Greek - Americans Pledge Fight to a Finish

A correspondent calls attention to the role of the Greek comrades, and especially Greek-Americans, in a letter to THE VOLUNTEER, the full text of which follows:

"Dear comrade: I have never missed an issue of your paper and am well pleased with the layout and contents, but something has been missing, and it isn't too late to make amends.

HIGHEST MORALE

"Being a representative for the American anti-fascist Greek newspaper, Empros, it has been my pleasure and duty to go from front to front and to various hospitals to interview the Greek comrades; and I have found, wherever I have gone, the highest morale possible exists among my countrymen.



"There are more than 200 Greeks in Spain today. Many have fallen, many are wounded. And they who still live are at the front, defying the dirty fascists to try and get past them. To point out heroic deeds of a few would not be fair to the others, who are on the job to wipe out fascism.

END FASCIST HOPES

"Most of these comrades have wives, children and real friends who are watching the news anxiously, waiting for a chance to hear how the Greeks are progressing.

"The Greeks in Spain all send their friends and comrades at home their anti-fascist greetings. We are going to stay here until Franco, Mussolini and Hitler are defeated and their dream of Spanish conquest buried forever."

P. M.

LINES BEFORE WINTER

All summer the soldiers have been fighting stripped to the waist. They are burned bronze by the sun. The other day a Division doctor appeared and recommended that from now on the officers must forbid this exposure. The autumn winds bring on bad colds. All of the warm clothing from last year has been disinfected, cleaned, and distributed.

The men must also be well nourished to keep fit through the winter. The Government has allotted an additional 55 centimes a day for each soldier. Used to the best advantage, these centimes will be multiplied a hundred times. Some of the land behind the lines is good for growing vegetables or other purposes. Goats, pigs, and cows, have been added to the livestock at the front for the use of the troops.

A commission from one brigade has gone to Barcelona to buy 4,000 pairs of boots and another to Elche for waterproofs. This has

been done without touching the soldiers' pay.

At an officers' post, Angel Serano, a soldier-sculptor of the



unit, has raised a monument five metres high on which he has engraved the brigade motto; "We go to war neither loving life nor fearing death."

All along the line in Guadarrama the soldiers are digging in for the winter. The chiefs and officers are carrying wood along with the men and taking part in the general preparations. It is already winter on the peaks of the Sierra.



MADRID "Chicos" painting the town red with colorful flags and banners in the recent double anniversary celebration of a year of fascist resistance in Spain and twenty years of workers power in the Soviet Union.

DIANA (U. G. T.) Larra, 6. Tel. 41105.—Madrid.

American Hospital Unit Leaves the Southern Front

After six months on the Cordoba front, the American Hospital Unit under Dr. A. I. Friedman (of Hackensack, N. J.) is now at Villa Paz for a short period of reorganization before leaving for the Fifteenth Brigade. The American Hospital of the South and its full complement of nurses, doctors and ambulance drivers has served with the 86th Mixed Brigade since April 23, when it arrived at Pozoblanco with Dr. Edward Barsky.

This unit, consisting of an auto-chir (portable operating room) and its accompanying 20 bed field hospital, seven ambulances, and a 100-bed base hospital, served its "apprenticeship" with the 86th Mixed Brigade on the Los Blancez sector. Following its short stay at the American medical base, it will be transferred to the 15th Brigade as an experienced and seasoned mobile military hospital.

The doctors, Commandante A. I. Friedman and Captain Norman Rintz, leave the Cordoba front with the highest of praise from Division Commander Morandi, bringing with them nurses and doctors to whom shell fire and aviation is no new tale.

Dr. Irving Busch, commander of the American Hospitals in Spain, is supervising the reorganization of the unit.

Triple Harvest Plan to Increase Production

The Ministry of Agriculture in order to increase production in the Eastern provinces (Castellón, Valencia, Alicante, Murcia, Almería) has worked out what is called the Triple Harvest Plan, that is, obtaining three different crops in the same agricultural year. The crops will be wheat, beans and potatoes. The wheat (Mentano, an early variety) is to be sown in October and harvested in April. The beans are to be sown right after the wheat harvest and gathered in July, when the potatoes are sown.



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

organ of the international brigades



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"I JOINED THE ARMY" by "X. Y. Z."

This book is the second issued by the FACT publishing house and it has already met with a boycott from the powers that-be. The printers suddenly refused to print the book and on the second day of issue the publishing firm which was to distribute it, refused to further handle it despite three legal authorities having declared it to be perfectly within the law.

This incident proves once again that whilst there is no official censorship, the British ruling class have ways and means of stifling criticism which is directed against the present state of things.

Certainly X. Y. Z. says some very hard things about the British Army system — so hard that he has already started a big controversy.

His bona fides are unquestioned. His record shows that he is not one of those unfortunates who are incapable of fitting in with the Army system. He completed six years service with the Tank Corps, was never "crimed", passed three tests in different trades, passed a first and part of a "Special" in education and finished with an exemplary character as a corporal.

Much of what he says may be disputed by contrast with personal experiences in other sections and places in the British Army, but his experiences, exceedingly well written, reaffirm clearly the class character of the British Army.

He exposes the basis of the so-called volunteer system of recruiting in his first sentence when he says "I enlisted — after being unemployed three months. There was nothing else for me to do — where I lived half the adult population were out of work".

His story of the reception into the barracks, squares with the experiences of most others. After thirty hours travel without food and sleep he is met by a bullying corporal who gives him a "fatigue" for enquiring about the possibilities of a couple of hours sleep. "You're in the bloody Army now". The first corporal he meets, lives up to the worst traditions of ignorance and spite for which the N. C. O.'s have become notorious. His slightest orders are bellowed in tones of hatred. The new recruits are persecuted until most of them are terrified. A feud develops between the corporal and a recruit which lasts over years.

Hopes of promotion which had begun to fade, brighten when they draw their kits and are attached

to a squad out of the corporal's way.

But new terrors lie in store for them; the vicious corporal is not the only one of his kind. Their Army service begins with intensity. Out of bed at six, a free fight to get washed and shaved with insufficient bowls, buttons cleaned, beds made, hut duty before breakfast. After breakfast a lecture, foot drill, P. T.'s, an hour's education followed by more drill until dinner time. After dinner more drilling and more lectures. After tea, polishing equipment and greasy boots until they shine like patent leather. This period becomes a nightmare of exhaustion for the recruits.

Where X. Y. Z. fails however, is in not showing clearly that all

this soul-destroying regimentation has a purpose: that of smashing down any individuality that the recruits might possess and to mould them into unthinking units in an oppressive war machine.

The Army pay is notoriously low. What little the soldiers get is rapidly swallowed in the army canteen to augment the insufficiency of the army rations.

The slightest faults on parade or misdemeanors are punished with a severity far beyond the extent of the crime. A slight movement during an inspection directs the unwelcome attention of the officer towards you. "He prods you with his cane... 'Hair', says the officer. 'Dirty mess tin. Packs not right. Puttees not right. Take his name, sergeant!' When the sergeant comes to take your name you try to tell him that you had a haircut two days ago. 'Stop talking in the ranks', he roars. Another offence. Five major offences! What did you do? You moved.

According to the author, desertion is attempted on a far wider scale than is generally admitted. Attempts at desertion are not listed in official figures. Recruits mostly desert from petty restrictions on liberty, bullying, poor food and lack of money; the trained soldiers because of poverty at home and offers of employment and the desire to settle down in a normal married life. In X. Y. Z.'s opinion every British recruit "contemplates desertion, admires deserters, and envies the few who get away".

The author gives an interesting example of the stupid lengths to which bureaucracy carries the British Staff Officer. Sixteen medium



BRITISH ANTI-TANK unit at rest in Ambite. These men, anti-fascist volunteers from many parts of Britain, are acquainted with the scandalous conditions that exist in their Government's army at home as revealed in the "X. Y. Z." 's book. They are in a different and better army, a People's Army, which is fighting against Hitler and Mussolini's fascist aggressors.

(Continued on page 8.)

Strengthening of People's Front Emphasised At Valencia Plenum of C. C. of the Communist Party

A Plenum of the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party is an event which is bound to awaken the liveliest interest of every conscious Anti-Fascist in Spain. The Plenum which began in Valencia on November 13th made important decisions which cover the whole field of the Spanish people's struggle to win the war and the revolution.

LESSONS OF THE NORTH

The Plenum declared that the present situation is serious. The loss of the North confronts us with a grave military situation. At the same time José Diaz spoke strongly against the opinion of those who regard the loss of the North as having been inevitable because of its isolation. He drew a sharp contrast between the policy which saved Madrid and the policy which lost the North, between the policy of a great political mobilisation of the masses and the policy of forbidding meetings and propaganda and political work in the Army.

THREE GOVERNMENTS

As against the loss of the North the Plenum could point to positive progress. It traced the advance shown in the three Governments which have been in power since the beginning of the war: the Giral Government, weak, with no link with the masses; the Caballero Government which had the support of all the mass organisa-

tions in the country but failed to take advantage of its opportunities, showed a tremendous delay in solving vital problems, and a complete failure to deal energetically with the Trotskyist traitors and the Fifth Column. The present Government, which received an inheritance heavily mortgaged by the two previous Go-

vernments, has important achievements to its credit. The Communist Party greets the energy and authority displayed by the Government, pointing out at the same time that they must always be directed against the *real* enemies of the people.



New recruits brought into the Spanish People's Army just after the new Negrin Government took office.

vernments, has important achievements to its credit. The Communist Party greets the energy and authority displayed by the Government, pointing out at the same time that they must always be directed against the *real* enemies of the people.

REGULAR PEOPLE'S ARMY

The Plenum noted the great progress which has been made in the military field: the formation of the Regular Army, the unified command, leaders who have proved their loyalty to the people. The Plenum emphasised that the Army's patriotism and its hatred of Fascism are one, and declared itself absolutely opposed to any tendencies towards a non-political Army. The task of the Army is to win the war and the anti-Fascist people's revolution. The Plenum indicated certain weaknesses in the Army — in some places an absence of the organisation and discipline which should characterise a regular modern army, an insufficient mastery of military technique, and the fact that a thorough purge of all disloyal elements has

still not been carried out. The Communist Party calls for the building of a vast force of reserves; the fortifications needed to withstand the enemy's attacks and to convert those attacks into heavy defeats; intensive and thorough training in military technique for the soldiers and, above all, the officers; a thorough purge of the

Army to remove the last enemy agent. While indicating certain weaknesses in the work of the Political Commissariat the Plenum declared that the Commissars are the soul of our Army and their role is an indispensable one which cannot be diminished.

In the organisation of the war industry some progress has been made but it is still far from adequate and is proceeding too slowly. The Plenum declared that there is no obstacle to carrying out the immediate nationalisation of the basic industry which is essential if the needs of the Army are to be met.

"On the day the invasion of Spanish territory began, on that same day began the war of international Fascism against France", said José Diaz. He showed that a rebel victory in Spain would bring, not peace, but a world war. Two forces have aided the Spanish Republic from the beginning: the Soviet Union and the most advanced section of the working class. Diaz stated that the aid which international solidarity

had so far given the Spanish people had not yet been adequate because of the fatal policy of some Social-Democratic leaders which had led to defeat in Austria and Germany and is now leading to world war. He called for direct action for the Republic with concrete objectives — above all the prevention of transport of supplies of any sort to rebel Spain.

NO COMPROMISE

The Plenum appealed to the people of Spain to be on guard against all talk of compromise. Compromise with Fascism in Spain would be a victory for Fascism all over Europe "To drive out the invader, to smash Franco, to destroy Fascism forever — that is the only compromise possible."

The Plenum held out the perspective of a possible great improvement in the Republic's position as a result of international unity.

Diaz summarised the contrast between the semi-colonial Spain of Franco and the democratic Spain of the Republic. The Plenum posed a new question on the order of the day: the question of elections. Several arguments were advanced for this. The Cortes does not correspond to the present state of political forces in the country. The Provincial and Local Councils were appointed by Government decree. Elections would be the occasion for a great political campaign to mobilise the people for the winning of the war and should occasion no internal struggle in the People's Front between the anti-Fascist Parties



JOSE DIAZ



LA "PASIONARIA"

and organisation. On the contrary it would serve to strengthen unity. In the French and Russian Revolutions we have examples of the effectiveness of elections in a period of war and revolution. The elections would show the world that while in rebel territory the people are terrorised by the Fascists and the Civil Guards, in the Republic the masses participate in the election of the organs of Government. This contrast could not fail to have considerable repercussions in the international sphere and in the rebel zone.

FIRM UNITY POLICY

Diaz emphasised the importance of the Communist's Party relations with the Socialist Party. He presented the United Party as a Party which did not want to absorb or displace anyone. The Communist Party's desire for closer co-operation with the C. N. T. did not mean any cooling in its desire to achieve fusion with the Socialists. The changes in the outlook and policy of the C. N. T. and the Anarchists made it possible to put on the immediate agenda of the day the definite participation of the C. N. T. in the People's Front and the con-



clusion of a pact between the U. G. T. and the C. N. T. on the basis of a concrete programme.

The Plenum called for absolute respect for the liberties and aspirations of all the peoples of Spain, and, in particular, of the Catalans.

A warning was issued against impatience and nervous reactions which might endanger working-class unity and the development of the People's Front policy — no other policy was possible at the present time. While the Communist Party did not agree with every one of the decisions of the People's Front Government without exception, none of the Government's decisions had made it impossible for the Communists to work to strengthen the Army; to develop the war industry and reinforce anti-Fascist unity within the People's Front. The People's Front should become a magnificent instrument for active and effective mass co-operation with the Government. At the Plenum the Communist Party solemnly pledged itself to do all in its power to strengthen and broaden the People's Front.

A. M. E.

"I JOINED THE ARMY" by "X. Y. Z."

(Continued from page 1.)

tanks were to demonstrate their capabilities to a select body of officials from a higher command. They were assigned, weeks in advance, the task of crossing a mile of treacherous moorland. Press reporters were invited to boost the show. "The tank crews were not in favour of the scheme — there was too much treacherous bog — even on foot one sank to the ankles in the slime. But higher authority was undisturbed. Three days prior to the event it rained. The drivers were on the verge of mutiny".

However the show commenced, "but not all the Staff officers ravings could get a tank across that strip of land. No one but a Staff Officer would have expected to do so". One tank completely disappeared from sight beneath the moor. "Ten thousand pounds of public money had been sacrificed".

"X. Y. Z." writes feelingly of the attitude of civilians towards the soldiers. The soldier he says is looked down upon. Parents object to their daughters marrying a soldier. They are refused admittance to cafes, dance halls and other public places: he quotes an instance where the soldiers and sailors in one town, after a number of examples of this social ostracism, organised a party of which he was one, and wrecked the cafes and dance halls where they had been refused entry.

He makes a strong appeal to the British working class "to alter its attitude to the troops — to win their absolute trust and confidence".

"Intimidation and fear of the military machine prevent the soldier from taking any active part in politics and at the same time rob him of political freedom. However, the soldier despite his handicaps is loyal to his class." This fact is sharply brought home to him as a result of the pay cuts which came into effect in 1925. When the soldiers failed to get the cuts returned under the Labour Government in 1929 there was great disappointment and disgust with the Labour leaders. "The disappointment of the soldiers spread to their relatives whom they maintained: anti-labour propaganda was spread mainly by the higher ranked N. C. O.'s and officers who sometimes lent an ear to the private's complaints about low pay. Controversies, held far

from the ears of authority, either bitterly condemned, or violently supported, Labour Rule".

These general experiences of "X. Y. Z." bear out the experiences of the majority of people who have served in the British Army. The whole attitude of the Army authorities to the men is seen in striking contrast when compared with our own experiences in the International Brigades and the Republican Army. Real volunteers for military service can be secured, without economic compulsion when people can be assured that their efforts will be used to champion democracy and the interests of the people.

The volunteers of the International Brigades sacrificed jobs and home cheerfully and they were received by the Spanish People and the Republican Army authorities as comrades in the anti-fascist fight. Discipline is not enforced to bludgeon the mind of the individual but in a comradely manner with the purpose of raising the efficiency of the Peoples Army. No effort is too great for the Government in ameliorating the inevitable hardships of war. "X. Y. Z." writes of an army in peace

have our political delegates and Commissars from the sections up throughout the whole Army to safeguard our interests, improve our social life and help develop our political connections.

Penalties for breaches of discipline are not brutal and decisions of the military courts are taken by the men. Promotion in our Army is open to all men of ability and good record without restriction and not confined as in other armies, to the people of the upper and middle classes.

It is because the Peoples Army has abolished the old bourgeois class restrictions that it increasingly wins new support from the people, becomes more and more a part of their life, held in the greatest respect and free from the old bureaucratic traditions, rapidly develops its striking force.

One is compelled to agree with the proposals of "X. Y. Z." for a public campaign in Britain for higher pay in the Services, more holidays, better pensions, better living accommodation, less severe punishments, shorter terms of service and plentiful and decent food. Where he makes the greatest



British volunteers at Fuencarral in November of last year.

time; whereas here one meets with general satisfaction with the conditions, the food and the standards of pay in the course of the war.

The political associations of the men are respected by those in authority. We have our Trench Wall-Papers, our bulletins, and our Brigade papers through which to express our views. Above all we

error, is in leaving in the background the demand of the men in all branches of the Service for the rights of citizens — the right to discuss political events; the right to attend political meetings; the right to break down their isolation from the rest of the people and take a hand in their own government.



Buenaventura Durruti

On November 20th, 1936, the Spanish Republic lost an irreconcilable and self-sacrificing enemy of Fascism—Buenaventura Durruti. Durruti was in the outskirts of Madrid in front of the building where he had his Staff Headquarters, when a fascist bullet wounded him mortally in the chest just as he was leaving a car to go up to the front lines.

A Barcelona worker, he was born on July 14th, 1896. His father was a railwayman. In 1920 Durruti joined the Anarchists. The bourgeoisie hated the very sound of his name and on four occasions he was condemned to death. He was one of the leaders of the Spanish Anarchist organisation, the so-called Iberian Anarchist Federation (F. A. I.)

At the end of 1932 the F. A. I. succeeded in winning decisive influence in the trade union organisation of the Spanish Anarcho-Syndicalists, the National Confederation of Labour (C. N. T.) in which the Syndicalists had previously held the majority. From that time on Durruti was one of the leaders of the C. N. T.

The military fascist rebellion found him in Catalonia. He showed the courage, determination and talents of an organiser and

a leader. The setting up of the United People's Government in Catalonia with the Anarchist's participation was in a large measure due to him. He spared no effort in forming battalions of armed workers. In the beginning these battalions took up an attitude of opposition to all power, an attitude of "organised indiscipline". The development of events, the difficulties of the struggle, the Fascist rebels' advance in Madrid, showed Durruti, and later the majority of the Spanish Anarchist workers, the necessity for organisation and discipline.

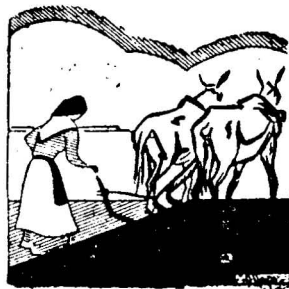
Durruti took to heart the hard lessons of the anti-fascist struggle. "We must create a Regular Army. We shall establish an iron



discipline. The main task is to crush Fascism, to defend Spain." Those were the slogans under which he participated in the organisation of the armed forces of the Republic.

In a radio appeal he made to the Catalonian workers shortly before his death, he said: "We must set our united strength against fascist tyranny; there must be a *Single Organisation with a Single Discipline*."

A column of 12,000 well-disciplined men operated under his leadership. When the fascist bands were nearing Madrid, Durruti hastened there with a strong column of 5,000. He showed his willingness to place himself unreservedly under the orders of the united central command in the fight to defend Madrid.



Durruti's letter to the workers of the U. S. S. R. is full of the deepest love for the organised working-class and faith in its strength.

On Durruti's death José Díaz, in the name of the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party, sent a telegram to the C. N. T. leader, García Oliver:

"We have learned of the heroic death of our comrade Durruti with feelings of deepest sorrow. He was a son of the working-class and a brave defender of proletarian liberty. The criminal bullet of a fascist bandit has ended a young life, full of sacrifice. Let us draw closer together until we destroy the fascist hordes who have spattered our land with blood. Let us fight on all the fronts of Spain to avenge our hero's death. Long live the victory of the Spanish People!"

To the roll of honour of the brave Spanish fighters and the volunteers in the International Brigades who have fallen in the struggle against the fascist rebels and against fascist intervention there was added the name of Durruti.

The workers of all lands, all anti-fascists lower their banners in memory of that brave fighter for the freedom and independence of heroic Spain.

Military Leaders Take Part in I. B. Beimler Meeting

The anniversary of the death of Hans Beimler, German anti-fascist fighter who fell in battle on the Madrid front on December 1st of last year, was commemorated by the general Madrid press, by various political and military organizations, and by the different units of the International Brigades, last week.

At the International Brigades Commissariat headquarters in Madrid a special tribute was paid to the memory of Beimler at a meeting held in his honor, which a number of well known military leaders attended, among whom were: Anton, Commissar for War of the Army of the Center; Captain José Estrugo, representing General Miaja; Luigi Gallo, Commissar Inspector of the International Brigades; and Heinz Roth, Political Commissar of the "Hans Beimler" Battalion of the 11th Brigade. Each made a short speech in praise of Beimler. Rafael Henche, Mayor of Madrid, spoke in the name of the People's Front.

Representing the 15th Brigade was Dave Doran.

The Political Commissar of the



ANTON

14th Brigade, F. Vittori, acted as chairman of the meeting.

The first to speak was Comrade Roth. In his brief talk he said: "Today completes a year that the generous heart of Beimler has ceased to beat—he sacrificed

HANS BEIMLER, DEFENDER OF MADRID

Red Front! — said the hero,
And Hans Beimler fell to the earth.
The Spaniards heard it;
his German comrades heard it,
the French and the Italians,
Madrid heard it; the air heard it;
trampling, the bullet bore
to kill him, heard it.

Red Front! — and on loyal
Castilian soil fell
one who came from very far
to spill his blood here.

Red Front! — Hear him,
Germany of prisons,
the executioner who lifts
his dry-blooded ax that drops
on the necks of those
who refuse to stoop.

Red Front! — rings, whistles,
crossing like a bullet, crackling
through sea, sky and land,
through heavens — every place,
this cry moving rapidly.

Red Front! — until it is nalled,
deep into the hearts
of those who want it, who love it,
let them shout it — Red Front! —
like Hans Beimler shouted it.
Madrid, that has a memory,
will shout it until the mouths
of her rifles go dry
from so much shouting.

Red Front! — whistles the train
whizzing through the fields of Spain.
Roaring through the villages,
the towns, and the cities,
Among orchards and gardens,
flags and orangery,
Valencia salutes the body —.

Red Front! — of Hans Beimler,
The abundance of Catalonia,
her vineyards, her olive groves,
the sandy beaches of Barcelona.

Red Front! — to see him the people go.
Paris! Your workers,
singing, carry him on their shoulders,
marching him toward the boats
that they may take Hans Beimler,
since his German fatherland
refuses to give him a passage.

Red Front! Through Moscow,
through the Red Square, great
pageantry, and multitudes —
singing they march to bury him.

Red Front! — Alongside of Lenin,
there, tranquil, he rests.

RAFAEL ALBERTI



HANS BEIMLER

A year ago one of the best of the international fighters fell in the defence of Madrid.

Hans Beimler was born in a very poor German family. He went to work at an early age as an apprentice metal-worker in the Munich factories. He soon experienced the injustices of the social system in which he was living. He joined the Socialist Trade Union movement and was mobilised in the first days of the World War for anti-militarism. The war, in which he fought as a sailor, made him an ardent champion of peace and a bitter enemy of the German Monarchy. In November, 1918, he took part in the first act of the German revolution.

When the German Republic was crushed by Fascism and by its own weakness and wrong policy, Beimler, as one of the best-known fighters for peace and freedom in South Germany, was hunted, arrested and tortured together with so many of Germany's best. He experienced the hell on earth of the Dachau concentration camp, where they put him in the cell in which his friend Dressel had been murdered. Beimler was spared the same fate by his escape from Germany. He at once resumed political activity and became one of the sternest and most powerful accusers of Hitler Fascism.

When the rebellion of the Generals and Fascist traitors broke out in Spain, Hans Beimler came here to meet his enemies, the enemies of the German and Spanish peoples, in the armed struggle. He arrived in the first days; and at Barcelona, Albacete and Madrid he showed himself a tireless organiser of the "Thaelmann Centuria" and of the first International Brigades. Simultaneously with this military work, he carried on a magnificent struggle for unity.

He was appointed Political Commissar and came to Madrid in those difficult November days of 1936, when the Militia, whose heroism was sometimes of no avail because of their disorganisation and the demoralisation which resulted from their constant retreats, were standing at bay against the rebel Armies, and when the bourgeois journalists were preparing to write up the fall of the capital. The miracle occurred, the miracle which was the mobilisation of a brave people prepared to give life itself rather than live as the slaves of Fascism. At the head of the first International Brigade, which set an example in discipline, organisation and military efficiency, Beimler played his part. On December 1st, 1936, on the Madrid Front a Fascist bullet robbed us of this great leader.

himself for liberty. With him we honor all of our brothers who fell for the same cause. He washed with his blood the stain that Hitler has flung over the German people. He demonstrated that the "Führer" is not Germany, and that the best of Germany is found here in Spain fighting for freedom. The battalion that bears his name took his banner of the union against fascism. We pledge to carry it ahead of us till victory is

won. We shall carry it to Burgos and to Salamanca."

The popular Spanish poet, Rafael Alberti, recited three of his poems, the first entitled "To The International Brigades", the second called "Hans Beimler" (which is translated and printed above), and the third was the "Defense of Madrid". After a storm of applause, he recited another dedicated to the fallen youth of the war.

AMERICAN HOSPITAL

There is a normal amount of activity going on at the American Base Hospital when a call comes to proceed immediately to the front. As you recall, the American hospital base is about fifty miles from Madrid, and this action is to take place on the Aragon front. We must be prepared to set up a field hospital of seventy-five beds with a complete staff of thirty personnel. This includes doctors, nurses, and varied types of help so that a complete hospital unit can be established in a building as close as possible to the front, ready to receive patients and ready to operate within twelve hours after the selection of a site.

As many of the personnel as can pile into a station wagon do so, and this vehicle becomes the vanguard. This is followed by an ambulance, then three trucks. One of the trucks contains all the kitchen supplies and the food. The other two carry beds, mattresses and other necessities. The autochir, which is the slowest moving, takes up the rear. The autochir, if you do not remember, is a com-



TWO International Brigaders folding gauze at the American Base Hospital.

pletely equipped operating room on wheels, in which any major operation can be performed. It is a complete autonomous unit. Where and whenever possible we prefer to have the contents of this unit transferred into a building about which can be built a complete seventy-five bed hospital. At the Madrid and Aragon fronts this has been the practice. On the Southern front, because of the unavailability of houses near the

front, surgical operations are done directly in the autochir.

HEAVY TRAFFIC

It is a two-day trip to the front and the nearer we get to our destination the thicker the traffic becomes. All are bound for the same place. There appears to be an endless train of troop convoys, food convoys, ambulances, trucks full of various materials—and we are caught in the line. The travelling slows down considerably. This is no dull line. The soldiers are constantly singing or shouting, excited in anticipation of the battle that is only a few days off. All languages are heard. These are the Internationals on the move.

As we near our destination, different sections of this convoy turn off the road to seek their camp sites, and we turn off to ours. This is a section of ploughed ground bordering upon a small stream, the latter the only pleasant sign in the set-up. The scarcity of water in this section during the late summer is notorious, and a scarcity of trees goes hand-in-hand with the lack of water. It is a bare arid country.

We come across three large barracks painted in bright blue, and on the roof a large red cross set in a white circle. A white enamel ambulance with a conspicuous red cross on its top stands all ablaze in the sun in front of the buildings. What a target for bombs from the air! I never saw

such a challenge to the fascists before. Since when do they spare hospitals? What does this defiance mean? Is it possible that we have blundered through the lines? Is there time to turn back?

GERMAN MAKE

We quickly return to the camp, ask about the hospital we have seen, and are told that it was set up by the International Red Cross. Actually we learned later that hospital was put into use during the offensive, but only after receiving a good camouflaging.

The next morning with a guide, and the final orders having been given, our group moves out. We are moving to another section of



DR. IRVING BUSCH, Commandant of all American hospitals in Spain.

the line, and reach our field hospital just before mid-day. Two Spanish surgical teams already have arrived, and the setting up of a field hospital is under way.

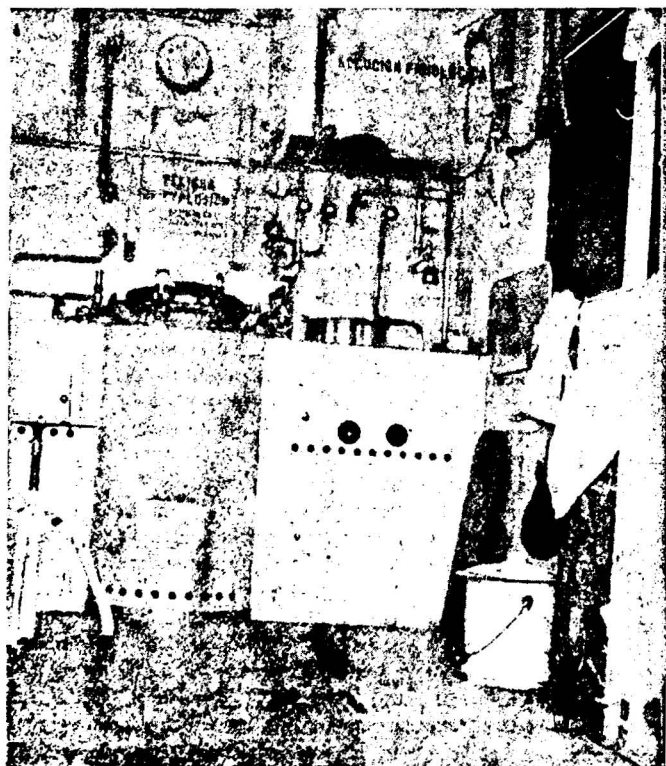
At lunch time six planes are seen overhead proceeding in the direction of the lines. "Whose planes are those?" I ask the Spanish surgeon who is standing beside me.

"Nuestros" (ours), he says beamingly.

"How do you know?" I ask.

And he replies, "Because they are headed in the direction of the front lines".

With the conclusion of his report the planes suddenly bank and head threateningly toward our hospital, and in a few moments we are all lying face downward on the ground. Then comes a crash



INSIDE VIEW of an Autochir.

AL UNIT IN ACTION

and an explosion... and everything and everybody is terrifically shaken up.

We keep our heads and eyes glued to the earth. A few moments and a similar explosion is heard. The anticipation of another falling bomb fills us with dreadful apprehension.

Then comes a third crash, but no explosion. Still we wait. When we feel the enemy have passed on, we investigate. Two bombs have exploded; another unexploded presents a fearful sight lying fifty meters from the hospital. With trepidation we approach the bomb and examine the German stamp on it. Well, that is the fascists' welcome to the Americans. But this is only an incident of field hospital life.

By late afternoon we are ready. All are assigned to duties.

It is evening and there is one of those big dark brown American ambulances coming slowly up the road. It appears a little unsteady on these Spanish country roads. Good that they are sturdy and are equipped with the latest American mechanical devices.

WOUNDED ARRIVE

In front of the hospital the ambulance stops, an American ambulance driver alights with his assistant, and they pass to the rear. The first wounded are removed to the front room, or triage, as it is called. Here they are examined, a diagnosis is made, and a treatment is decided upon. This one for the operating room. Another to be put to bed to await his turn for a later operation. Another to be sent for treatment to a hospital in the rear. All get a hypo of tetanus anti-toxin. The dreaded disease of lockjaw is a rarity in this war. In the hospital all is a-bustle now. The place seems full of doctors, nurses and helpers.

Some of these patients will require blood transfusions. Others are to receive shock treatment. Some cases will have plaster-of-Paris casts applied, others airplane splints, and then be sent on after a little rest to a hospital in



THE INTERIOR of one of the wards in the American Base Hospital.

the rear. The triage is a busy place.

The American operating team works at one table, and a Spanish team at a table along side. When the operation is completed we step into the triage. Lying on stretchers, covering every available space on the floor, are the wounded. Many ambulances have discharged wounded while we worked. It looks like an all night session, something that is not uncommon when doing front line work. The third operating team fills in, and this gives each group a chance to recuperate, for there will be a full week of concentrated activity.

NO REST AT FRONT

The number of cases in the triage has dwindled down to but a few, and we expect a temporary lull. But we peek in after finishing an operation and the triage is full again.

Dawn breaks and we still are hard at work. Wonder how the nurses are getting on in the wards? These are all very sick cases and require lots of care. But the nurses are working unhaltingly. There is no eight hour day at the front for them. The tenseness and tempo of front work somehow dispels fatigue.

During the early morning hours one hears the cannons pounding with discomfiting regularity. During the course of time one becomes unaware of the disturbing detonations and only notices the

head toward the lines flying six abreast and pass over a village situated one kilometer in front of us. As if pulling the same string, each drops a bomb on the town. We hear the terrific explosions, and see the ascent of black smoke into the skies—a direct hit. One-half hour later we are busy again, treating women and children that our ambulances bring in from the village we have just seen bombed.

When later I read President Roosevelt's speech delivered at Chicago on October 5th, I recalled most vividly this incident when I came to this passage, "and without warning or justification of any kind, civilians, including women and children, are being ruthlessly murdered with bombs from the air". For this town was not a military objective and had not, as a matter of fact, so much as a gasoline pump in it.

Our work continues feverishly for a week. We sleep in tents, and never bother to undress, for an ambulance load of wounded may come in at any hour. It is a really primitive camp life without conveniences.

Fascist bombers frequently

(Continued on page 9.)

VILLAGE BOMBED

On the third morning there is a lull in the surgical work, and we receive an accustomed unfriendly visit from six fascist bombers. They are directly overhead, but we are not their objective. They



AMERICAN and British nurses. This photo was taken at Quinto after the Fuentes de Ebro attack.

PRESENT DAY DICTATORS AND THOSE OF THE PAST

by HEINRICH MANN

The fascist Governments do not recognise the suppositious "red" Governments. They only tolerate the democratic Governments with great difficulty. Furthermore, they consider themselves to be the only competent authorities to decide the true colour of another Government; they claim the right to be the supreme judges as to the manner in which the nations must have themselves governed, and they arrogate to themselves the right to correct these nations when they see fit.

This phenomenon is very curious. It is the first time that a Government which is a new-comer and is thereupon legitimate, has permitted itself to lay down the law on the right to existence of other Governments older than itself. Until now the exact contrary was the case. The new Governments which came into being through revolution, a coup d'état or shady machinations were never recognised in a hurry by Europe at a time when Europe maintained a certain coherence in her ideas and institutions. They had to produce proofs of order and international morality; after which the recently created emperor or the dictator who showed a judicious readiness to fall in with the conventions, finally had the probability of being consecrated by his betters as a lawful sovereign.

Then this man, who was powerful on his own account but with whose shady arrival the other powers would not temporise for a lengthy period, overflowed with pride and joy. This is to be seen in that old and moving photograph which shows Napoleon III and Queen Victoria in the imperial train travelling among padded silk. They haven't much to say to one another, but what an expression of contentment there is on the face of the former usurper! He has been legalised, and after being forced to wait he is none the less received into the bosom of the universal monarchy.

After examining this idyll, we immediately remember that, after all, the dictator was no less venturesome than the dictators now. Certainly he maintained his authority by a sort of "Gestapo" and his warlike enterprises never came to an end. Nevertheless the difference between him and an individual of Hitler's type is clear

enough. In the first place Napoleon III was not in the habit of laying waste countries in which he had no business for the pleasure of imposing his dominion upon them, as is the case in Spain at present. On the contrary he was possessed with the mania of bringing to foreign peoples the liberty which he denied to his own. In his battles he even went so far as to expose his own person, a practice which is quite unknown to the new lords and masters who prefer to observe the deeds of their bombing squadrons from a very respectful distance.

It is as well to add that formerly, politics, even the imperial politics, did not necessarily invade the sphere of spiritual civilisation. The mind kept its sovereignty despite the omnipotence of the



system. If Victor Hugo went into exile it was in order to maintain his political independence, and not for literary reasons. His books were not burned; and, on the contrary, the current of opposition brought them greater success. Under a dictatorship the greatest innovators of the century were able to experiment with a literature and painting which were both beautiful and daring. Thus scientists and artists did not feel themselves under any necessity for getting at logger-heads with the Court.

These facts must be borne in mind if we are to appreciate the full extent of the decadence of the new crop of dictators. Under other circumstances political violence did

not prevent a country's spiritual life from developing freely, and even from enjoying a certain airy lightness which no longer seems to exist in this world. Over Hitler Germany the darkness is becoming more and more oppressive. This is an unavoidable condition under a dictatorship which could not survive the granting of freedom of opinion or sincere and creative thought. Quite the reverse. In order to last, the dictatorship finds itself obliged to carry darkness into other places. It is necessary for the universe to accept its idea of culture, which is the negation of culture, and to become contaminated also. There is no security for this system of government, even if it is victorious in the political sphere, until it has succeeded in providing the peoples who are still free with that slavery of the mind which it calls its "philosophy".

A map of Europe recently published in Berlin has as its title: "Europe and Bolshevism. The different forms of Bolshevik penetration." According to this map three-quarters of the continent are already "bolshvised". In order to arrive at this conclusion they do not let themselves be disturbed by the fact that only one state has taken the means of production completely into its hands, although on the map the country guilty of this is covered with the blackest of blacks. They then proceed to colour the countries which have signed military pacts with the Soviet Union, such as those where a People's Front Government is in power, with a dull black faintly striped with a lighter colour. The Scandinavian countries where the Socialists are in power are, for that reason, scarcely less dark than the U. S. S. R. itself.

One same muddy tint covers Republican Spain, France, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Turkey and the small countries on the frontiers of Russia, with the exception of Finland. Consequently the map becomes really sinister. There only remain two shining white archangels to save this continent which has fallen in the mire; who they are can be guessed. We know also that they do all they can in this direction. Thanks to them half Spain has just regained a presentable colour. One of the ar-

changels says: "Europe shall be fascist." The other declares at Nuremberg: "France and Great Britain are concerned because Spain may be conquered by us. Our concern, on the other hand, is that she may be conquered by Bolshevism."

And this man, Hitler, is floundering in the midst of inextricable internal difficulties, such as the everlasting trials for high treason, the opposition of the churches which has been transformed into politics, the demonstrations against war in a Berlin plunged in darkness, the refusal of the young men to enlist in the infantry, the impoverishment of the masses and the ruined economy. I have omitted some of the difficulties, and not the least important. The People's Front is in existence there, and is rising up against the system. But that does not matter... That "admirable" character, far from minding his own business, only concerns himself with the welfare of this poor Europe which is decrepit enough to allow itself to be tempted by Bolshevism; and Bolshevism, in the eyes of this "admirable" individual, is equivalent to human liberty and justice.

He does not "recognise" the Governments of liberty and social justice. But if we stop to think the matter over: has he ever been recognised? He has been admitted, despite his coup d'état which was disreputable intrigue, and having been admitted he is endured. Whether he should be "recognised" or not has still not been discussed. We are still free to do so.

Prehistoric Discovery Made by Soviet Scientists

LENINGRAD, Dec. 4.—An expedition commissioned by the Academy of Sciences has discovered in the valley of the River Don, near the little town of Kostensky, a piece of ground belonging either to the Glacial Epoch or to the era before the beginning of civilization. In various sections of this ground great quantities of prehistoric objects were found.



PERSONNEL of the Base Hospital.

AMERICAN HOSPITAL UNIT IN ACTION

(Continued from page 7.)

threaten, and our own planes cause us consternation until they come close enough to be recognized as ours. The droning of an airplane motor at the front is no comfort to the surgeon in the midst of an operation.

There is no safety against the deadly missiles dropped from above. One place is as dangerous as another, and under the most perilous circumstances the nurses continue to stand by the wounded. Heroism is the usual thing, and only contrary acts would be noticeable.

BACK TO BASE

During the second week the number of wounded decreases and there is a let-up in the concentrated strain of the work. The doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers are quite worn out by this time and welcome the temporary reprieve. The decrease in the number of wounded coming in means that we can anticipate a call in a few days to move out.

On the night of the twelfth day of our stay at the front rumors are spreading that our division is to move. The next day after lunch we receive our orders. All the patients who are fit to be evacuated are sent in ambulances to hospitals in the rear. One surgical team will remain behind to take care of the remaining patients until they are fit to be transported, a matter of perhaps another week.

Everything is gathered and packed into our trucks and autochir. The dismantling of the field hospital proceeds much slower than did the setting up. We are going back to the base; we need a rest. However, we have the feel-

ing that we are leaving a place where sufficient events to fill a life time have transpired in the space of two weeks. Early the next morning the caravan begins its journey to the base. "We are going home", is our way of expressing it.

BOMBED AGAIN

At mid-day we enter a quiet sleepy little village, and look about for a place to buy some food. Suddenly we hear the familiar shriek of sirens warning of the coming of enemy planes.

The whole village becomes transformed. From the doorways rush women and children. Many a mother has a babe in arms, and some drag other children behind them. Here and there one sees an old woman being hurried along by a younger person, or a fear-stricken mother running through the streets calling frantically for a child she is unable to find.

The streets are cleared. All are waiting anxiously in the places of refuge.

It comes—that familiar crashing explosion.

This time the bomb destroys the hospital in the village—a fascist farewell to our group.

Without further incident we reach our base, get down to routine again, and have time to reflect under comparatively safe circumstances upon the experiences we have been through. Up until now our participation in an all-absorbing purposeful work has blunted our awareness to the dangers encountered at the front. Away from the front we become increasingly more conscious of how grave they have been—but give us a little rest and the clamor to return to front duty begins over again.

Dr. IRVING BUSCH

GIRLS WHO WAR ON MICROBES

In the Institute of Biology and Serumtherapy at Madrid there are collections of rabbits and white rats for experimental purposes. Here in different departments about forty girls, chattering and laughing in their white overalls, handle deadly microbes against which they have been immunized. It is owing to them and to this laboratory that Madrid has been free of epidemics. They have prepared thousands of tubes of serum for injections. And they have also saved from tetanus and gangrene hundreds of wounded.

Doctor Alday, professor of the faculty of medicine at the University of Madrid, is in charge of the laboratory which is managed by Doctor Ruiz Falco and he told me that in spite of the most meticulous precautions there is some risk attached to the work. He said:—"The son of the scientist and Nobel prize winner, don Santiago Ramón y Cajal, caught Malta fever here as did also another worker, Vincente Hernandez; but there are very few such cases."

Gustamente inoculates against tetanus; Azuar against Malta fever and Partearroyo against bubonic plague. All of these pretty girls that you see, Felisa, Pepita, Matilde, Concepción, Pilar, ... socialists, communists, republicans, anarchists, live daily with these microbes.

There is one girl who deals with veterinary infections and there are serums against gangrene, tetanus, smallpox, typhoid and diphtheria. The rats came originally from the Pasteur Institute in Paris. They are now bred here.

"Our work has been tremendously increased during the war," Doctor Alday declared. "We have prepared as many as 2000 anti-typhoid injections at a time and once we had an order for a million."

"What is the rat serum used for?"

"Against pneumonia."

In two large rooms 20 or 30 girls are seated at tables preparing tubes of calcium which is administered to those wounded who are suffering from fractures. Calcium helps the bones to form again. The girls here are even prettier and livelier than in other parts of the building. Here is Felisa, a petite Madrid girl. She believes firmly in the Popular Front Government. Unlike most of the other girls who have fiancés at the front, she is unattached but she writes to a lot of soldier boys to amuse and encourage them, and they reply. Concha Olmo and Carmen Jimenez write long letters every day to their heroes. Pepita Palomares is on the eve of motherhood. Her husband is a postman in Carabanchel. Matilde de Gutierrez is envied by everyone because her fiancé is an aviator. Carmen Bernabeu is a Valencian girl. These girls work nine hours a day and do it gladly.

Pilar Díaz works in the section of cures and is the daughter of a doctor. Her two brothers are despatch riders on the Valencia road. She deftly and fearlessly manipulates the imprisoned "flowers of evil" of the deadly fevers.



AMERICAN doctors at work.

Phil Detro --- "Long-Legged" Texan Commander of our Lincoln-Washington Battalion



CAPTAIN PHIL DETRO

You ask him why he came to Spain, how he came to hate fascism. You ask because his background is Mississippi and Texas, where reaction is strong in the ruling class. His folks were planters in Mississippi. If you trace the family you can go back to the Revolutionary War. One was a General in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, defending slavery. There are a whole string of slaveholders.

Today in Spain Captain Philip Detro is commanding the Lincoln-Washington Battalion of American volunteers, fighting slavery and slaveholders.

In Conroe, Texas, his home town, they are among those old families to whom Spain is too far away to care about unless it affects the price of cotton. At Rice Institute, then at Missouri where he studied journalism, but spent more of his time learning to fly, he knew little and cared less about any struggle between classes.

The struggle between classes — at Rice Institute — that is the sort of play on words Phil likes. You ask his middle name. It's Leighton. "Leighton?" you inquire. "Don't lay it on", he will most likely pop back, running the words together so you can't miss the pun on Leighton.

He crossed into Spain on April 1, coming to fly in the Loyalist air force. He speaks in a quiet, unhesitating, off-hand way. His soft, Texan drawl fits in perfectly with his lanky, big-boned six feet and four inches.

For six years he was a member of the Texas National Guard. All of them uneventful years.

He started out to find adventure. He wanted to see things. He shipped out on a boat headed for Europe. Once in Berlin he heard Hitler speak. This was in 1932, during the tense days. There was a clash. When he came out of it he had lost one good shirt sleeve.

He had gained a view of fascism—in action, headed for power. He had begun to think about these things.

He worked on ships running to the Far East. In China there were the oppression and extreme poverty of the coolies and the brutal callousness of the war-lords and the foreigners who were in China as agents for imperialist interests.

There was a sort of a job, after this, writing for a syndicate in New York. It paid less than not so good, but he wanted to write. At the age of nine, he wrote his first novel. It was also his last.

Someone mentioned one night that American fellows were going

to Spain to aid the fight against fascism. All this time he had been developing convictions, shedding old prejudices. But he hadn't done anything about it. This worried him.

Here was something. He started in search of a way to volunteer. He had no connections which might make it easy. Nobody who might help, knew him. It was difficult.

Finally he found someone. He volunteered. Then he went to his room and waited. He waited a long time, was impatient. He almost gave up hope. Then he received word.

Could he be ready to leave the next day?

He could. He did.

PLENTY OF STUFF

Spain, by this time, didn't need more aviators. Spain needed a greater, stronger, better trained and more disciplined army.

Okeh. Train then. Take your training seriously. Remember what you learned in the National Guard back home. Use that knowledge. Spain needed men who could do things this way. Phil Detro did.

Men liked him. They liked the quick smile that showed widely spaced but even teeth. He was

made a section leader in the Washington Battalion. Then Company Adjutant under Hans Amle. That's the way things stood, moving into Brunete.

Villanueva de la Cañada taken from the fascists. There are always changes in an action. Things happen to men and others step up to take their places.

Phil Detro took over command of a Company. He knew his stuff. He had the confidence and the natural leadership of the soldiers. He had courage.

War is the greatest of all tests of a man's convictions. The fascist guns pounded Phil Detro's convictions deeper. His anti-fascism was forged stronger in battle.

WOUNDED

Shrapnel laid him up at Mosquito Ridge. Later there was malaria. The effects still linger. In the States he weighed 190. Today the scales tip at 168 pounds.

He was back again with the re-organized Lincoln-Washington at Belchite. Immediately, he pitched into that battle of grenades.

The fascists erected a barricade in the streets. They commanded the sector. Phil can throw. Together with Major Merripan, he crawled out onto the rooftops, loaded with grenades. One after another he slung them.

In the street fighting, the long-legged Texan was in the lead. Later, he was cited for bravery. He was made Battalion Adjutant.

"I just happened to be around every time they needed someone," is his explanation of his steady advance to positions of responsibility.

You ask him why he came to Spain. The answer seems so simple, so right, to him that the question is superfluous. He is fighting slavery. He is adding his force and knowledge in a tangible way to a struggle for things he believes right and decent.

"I'm getting re-paid a hundred times for anything I can do. I'm learning things.

"I'll make mistakes," he says. "I've made them. I only want men to believe that I'm honest, that I'm trying the best way I know how. That's what's important."

Men do believe that about Captain Philip Detro, American anti-fascist volunteer.

B. O.



LINCOLN-WASHINGTON comrades under the shower machine.



MACKENZIE-PAPINEAU machine gunners cleaning up after the Euentes de Ebro battles.

"They Seemed Delighted"

Another story from Germany: Hitler and Goebbels were touring the countryside doing propaganda work among the peasants. They were dashing along at 60 m. p. h. in a fine car, and everything was going beautifully.

Suddenly their chauffeur had the misfortune to run over and kill a pig.

The situation was not too good. Hitler didn't like it at all. That the Fuehrer should kill a peasant's pig was going a bit too far. So he sent off Goebbels to the nearest farm to explain matters, and, with bribes or threats if necessary to set the matter right.

Ten minutes later, back came Goebbels loaded up with fruit, vegetables, chickens and eggs.

"I suppose you gave a fabulous price for those things", said Hitler.

"No," replied Goebbels, in a puzzled voice. "They gave them to me."

"Gave them to you? Do you mean to say they weren't annoyed?"

"Not a bit of it," replied Goebbels, "they seemed delighted."

"But what did you say," asked Hitler, "to arrange it all so nicely?"

"Hardly anything," said Goebbels. "I just said 'Heil Hitler!' I have the swine run over and killed."

Mysterious Explosion In Munitions Plant

LONDON.—In the munition factory of Waetham Abbey, which is under government control, a violent explosion occurred. The accident was mysterious and has raised great suspicion. The government has ordered an immediate investigation. There were no victims, but the damage done to the plant is considerable.

It is believed that the enemies of government control are responsible for the explosion.

HOLLYWOOD MISSES BIG CHANCE

The attack on Quinto went out across a flat stretch of ground bare of cover. We could see the Ebro valley beyond the village, as green and rich as the rocky tauleland was barren. It lay beyond the enemy's lines like the Promised Land.

That attack was faultlessly planned. We were in Quinto the next day. Only a handful of fascists were left in the church, and we pounded them out of that in time. But it took us two days more to capture Perberel Hill. The place was a natural fortress, surrounded by a steep ravine, bridged in one place only by a narrow neck of land. We were kept off that by barbed wire and tank traps.

If anything could have induced a big Hollywood producer to come out to Spain and watch that hill being taken, he would have wanted to buy up the battle, lock, stock and barrel. Had his inclinations taken him into the fascist lines rather than our own, so much the worse for him. Our artillery and gun-fire turned that place into something worse than hell.

But what a spectacle! Attempts were made to assault the hill before it was ready to give in. The Twenty-Fourth Battalion, attacking on one end, reached the bottom of the slope and were driven

back by hand grenades. There was work for the artillery to do yet; German defences take a bit of smashing.

Guns of all calibres pounded away until evening of the next day. At length we saw two figures jump out on the opposing parapet and run down the hill, waving white handkerchiefs. Cheering broke out in our lines, and men climbed on the sandbags, waving their arms and shouting "Venga! Venga!"

Not all the fascists were of one mind. Machine gun fire broke out from the spur of the hill, and the cheering Republicans climbed hastily back. But the thing had started. More men came running out, in twos and threes.

Then against the sky-line at the other end of the ridge we saw our own troops going up to the assault and dropping into the fascist trenches. The battle was over. Soon the prisoners were being marshalled on the crest and marched down to the valley below.

It seemed from their expressions that this was no disappointment to the fascist rank and file. Not surprising — they had endured two days of hell for a number of airy promises and a few centimos a day in hard cash. As for the future, some of them may have guessed that even a few centimos was no safe bet.



LETTERS from HOME

British Labour M. P.'s
Write to I. B. Fighters.

Dear Comrade M.:

Thank you for your letter and the Souvenir Card, which is most impressive.

We shall certainly do our utmost in this country to try to get assistance for our Spanish comrades, but the difficulties with the present National Government are very great. We are putting all the pressure that we can to bear on the Government in order to get the policy of Non-intervention brought to an end and shall continue to do this in the hope that it will enable the Spanish workers to gain an ultimate victory.

We all look with immense admiration on the work being done by the International Brigade and wish you all the very best of luck.

Yours sincerely,

Signed:

STAFFORD CRIPPS

Dear Comrade:

Very many thanks for your letter to hand today.

Let me assure you and your Comrades of the I. B. that we are fully conscious of the urgency and the gravity of the situation

and will do our best to mobilise the people of Britain behind the people of Spain. And in particular do we recognise the need of ending the farce of Non-intervention.

With the best of good wishes.
Yours fraternally,

Signed:

JIM GRIFFITH

Antifascist sentiment
Growing Stronger in Austria.

Dear Oliver:

My time is pretty full up these days and I have a special routine, though this is varied at times. In the summer, I spent some weekends over at Elford Hall (where the Basque kiddies are staying) and acted as Electrician's Mate. My chief job was to cut up hundreds (or were they thousands) of lengths of conduit and screw the ends, but I filled in the time crawling among spiders' webs in the rafters, and by fitting Rawlplugs in inaccessible positions.

Jack and I spent our holiday in Austria this year, had a very good time and learned that the socialist idea is by no means dead there.

There is quite a lot of anti-fascist feeling and we were pleased to see that where some bright lad had scrawled Nazi Swastikas on the staircase of our digs in Vienna, they had been scrawled over and replaced by hammers and sickles.

Here's the best of luck and a victorious peace.

CHICK

GHOST HOUSES

What's in a house?

Everybody likes to know, at one time or another. A house, under normal circumstances, contains the background of a man's life. Get a look inside, and you can have a good guess at what sort of a man your neighbour is.

Under circumstances of war, houses attain a new significance. They are liable to contain the background of a man's death. The soldier who is fighting with a house in front of him has a better reason than curiosity to know what is in it.

Most Spanish houses are white. White houses are stock properties of the Civil War. Time and again our troops have had to shelter from a sniper's aim or a stream of machine gun bullets coming from the windows of a white house. They stand, still and bleached like skeletons. Nothing looks so dead.

Waiting in a hastily dug hole, sometimes for hours, a soldier may have little else to look at except one of these ghost houses. It gathers a gloomy significance. Later, when the action is over and the Brigade pulls out to the rear, the sight of houses with smoking chimneys, linen on the line and life in and about them seems almost as strange as it is welcome.

When the Brigade is at rest, and large numbers of men have to be quartered together, the big houses that once belonged to rich landowners or industrial proprietors prove very serviceable. There were many vacated at the outbreak of the war by men who left hurriedly with what they could collect, feeling that life on the fascist side would suit them better than staying where they were.

Over the tracks of the old life, a new life riots in. There is no one there to take offence but the family portraits, who may be shocked at so much husky vitality. By the looks of them, they would be shocked at anything.

There are no ghost houses for troops at rest—not, at least, to an army that is fighting, like ours, for more life. The old bones, the weary remnants of the rich departed, are stacked away in corners and attics. Books, documents, photographs, title deeds pile up in dusty store-rooms, an almost everlasting banquet for moths and the other insects that share with their former owners a taste for such things. They lie unnoticed. The house is shaking with life.

M. T.

Queipo de Llano Hurt in Auto Smash-up

Last minute news inform us that the fascist General, Queipo de Llano, met with an automobile accident on the highway between Valladolid and Burgos. The traitor General suffered a fractured arm.

*

All Political Parties Dissolved in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 3.—The dictator, President Vargas, has ordered the dissolution of all political parties in the country, without exception.

NOTICE

All American and Canadian comrades are urged to write in and tell of their experiences in the various services of the Army; their experiences at the front and in the rear; their reactions to what is going on in Spain today; etc. We want the truth. It is necessary that we get all this information so that in nightly short wave broadcasts to North America we can give Canadian and Americans an accurate picture of what "Our Boys" are doing in Spain. Comrades, whenever you have any interesting experiences, write them down and send them in to THE VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY, S. R. I., PLAZA ALTOZANA, 63E, ALBACETE



SPANISH GIRL at a machine in a Madrid munitions factory.



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

organ of the international brigades



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Madrid, December 13 - 1937

BRITISH LABOUR DELEGATION VISITS SPAIN

Major C. R. Attlee, leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party and of the Opposition in the House of Commons, Noel Baker M. P., and Ellen Wilkinson M. P., both members of the Executive Committee of the Labour Party, together with Mr. Dugdale, private secretary to Major Attlee and parliamentary candidate for Birmingham, formed an official Labour Delegation which has just concluded a visit to Spain.

The Delegation had been invited to come to Spain by Dr. Juan Negrín, President of the Council, and they made the utmost use of their stay here to find out for themselves the real conditions of the country. At Barcelona, Valencia, and Madrid they had various interviews with prominent Government and Military officials, and they utilised their time to the fullest extent in order to get in contact with the civil population and the soldiers to discover the feelings and the spirit of the Spanish people.

While in Madrid they paid a visit to the trenches in the Centre Front, seeing with their own eyes the battlefield of Democracy. Later they had an interview with General Miaja, Commissar Anton of the Centre Army, and Jesús Hernández, Minister of Education.

On December 5th they were received by Comrade Luigi Gallo, Inspector of War for the International Brigade, at the War Commissariat where they had explained to them the role and some of the achievements of the Brigade. Here also they were met by Lieutenant-Colonel Copic and Dave Doran, Commander and Political Commissar respectively of the 15th Brigade, and Captain Fred Copeman, Commander of the British Battalion who had come spe-

LABOUR GROUP IN TALK TO THE ENGLISH SPEAKING OF THE 15TH BRIGADE EXPRESS DETERMINATION TO CARRY ON FIGHT FOR SPANISH CAUSE IN BRITAIN. MAJOR ATTLEE CONDEMNS "NON-INTERVENTION" AS "FARCE"

cially to Madrid to invite them to visit the Brigade to which are attached their countrymen.

IMPRESSIVE RECEPTION

Their reception at the Brigade the following day was a fitting climax to their whirlwind tour. When they reached the town in which the Brigade is quartered they were met by the British Battalion and the Lincoln-Washington American Battalions drawn up at attention, with the scene lighted by gasoline torches held by the soldiers. The uneven, yellow glare outlining the trim lines of soldiers and the people of the town, crowd-

ed along the walls and balconies, prompted one of the speakers to compare it with scenes during the Chartist movement in England. The Chartists fighting for suffrage and other democratic rights over a hundred years ago had demonstrated by torchlight for their demands.

The First Company of the British Battalion received the honorary name of "Major Attlee Company" in the presence of Division General Carlos Walter, Inspector of War for the International Brigade, Luigi Gallo, Commander of the Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel Copic, Brigade Political Commis-

sar, Dave Doran, and the entire delegation.

Lieutenant-Colonel Copic, former member of the Yugo-Slavian parliament, spoke at the ceremony in the name of the Brigade.

Major Attlee, himself an experienced soldier, spoke to the assembled Battalions.

"We are proud", he said, "of the deeds of those who have died and of those who still live. We have seen and know the spirit of the Spanish people and, like you, are sure of their victory."

In referring to "non-intervention" he stated "it is truly a farce. It should have been over long ago. Everybody knows it is a farce".

He promised, in the name of the entire delegation, to take the truth of the struggle back to Britain and to do everything in their power "to try to bring pressure to bear to change this policy so fraught with danger to Democracy".

BAKER CHEERED

Noel Baker in his speech referred to British tradition in relation to Spain during the Civil War of 1837 against the monarchy and oppression. "England sent 10,000 volunteers to aid the Spanish people in the struggle for Liberty and opened her armouries to send arms".

He was greeted with cheers when he declared, "I wish we were doing the same today".

"I am not very proud of the part our British Government has played towards democratic Spain", he said, cheered by Major Attlee.

Major Attlee led the assembly in a loyalist salute when Captain Fred Copeman called for a one minute silence in honour of the members of the British Battalion who had fallen fighting for De-



MAJOR ATTLEE, at the forefront, on the balcony of Madrid's War Ministry. General MIAJA (center) is talking to ANTON, Commissar of War of the Army of the Center.

(Continued on page 12.)

World Trade Union Unity Scores Big Advance

In recent weeks the cause of working class unity has advanced towards one decisive victory.

From November 23rd to the 26th the delegations of the International Federation of Trade Unions and of the Central Council of the Soviet Trade Unions met together in Moscow to discuss the fundamental principles on which trade union unity can be established on the basis of the anti-war, anti-Fascist struggle. The agreement arrived at has to be submitted for approval to the Bureau and the General Council of the I. F. T. U. on the one hand and the Central Council of the Soviet unions on the other, but this agreement lays the foundations for the entry of the Soviet Trade Unions into the I. F. T. U.

REACTION DISPLEASED

The reactionary press has received the news with grinding of teeth and howls of rage — the I. F. T. U. will be delivered over to the "Stalinist dictators", etc. In 1925, when the General Council of the British Trade Union Congress was supporting unity between the I. F. T. U. and the Russian movement, the reactionary press ran a sustained campaign, which for virulence and misrepresentation has rarely been

in the forefront of the fight against unity have tested their policy to its bitter end, while the General Council of the British T. U. C. is not quite the same champion of unity as it was in those days. But one thing remains unchanged — the words "international working-class unity" sound no more melodious to reactionary ears in 1937 than they did in 1925. The depth of the reactionaries' anger will be the measure of the victory against war and Fascism.

It is earnestly to be hoped that



at its present meeting the Executive of the I. F. T. U. will reach a decision favourable to the speedy incorporation of the Soviet trade unions, in accordance with the Moscow agreements. An International Federation of Trade Unions including in its ranks the millions of Soviet Trade Unionists, and soon, let us hope, those of the U. S. A. as well, will be an International with vast possibilities of mass pressure against the complacency and the complicity, the vacillations and the retreats of some Governments before the Fascist aggressors.

Another problem the I. F. T. U. Executive will have to consider is that of the circumstances which compelled the majority of the organisations in the U. G. T. to remove their former Executive. This problem has already been solved to a great extent by the Spanish Unionists themselves, who have shown that they will not tolerate the use of their great organisation as a manoeuvring ground for personal ambition and individual interest which do not coincide with those of the Spanish people. Their action has been further strengthened by the decision of the People's Front Government to recognise the new Executive as the legitimate Exe-

cutive of the U. G. T. It is fervently to be desired that the delegation which the I. F. T. U. sends to Spain will set the seal of its approval on the labour of unity already realised by the new Executive.

While there is an advance in the international trade union field, there is a setback in the political field. On November 25th the Labour and Socialist International rejected the Communist International's offer to begin joint conversations with a view to bringing international unity into the realm of reality. In their letter of refusal Adler and De Brouckère claim that the Annemasse agreement did not provide for joint conversations. In the text of that agreement we read, however: "They (i. e. the delegates of the two Internationals) are united in their desire that fresh contacts should be made with the least possible delay for a more detailed study of the concrete ways and means envisaged for providing Spain with material and moral assistance."

Months have gone by. We are still waiting for these "contacts with the least possible delay", and although "hope deferred maketh the heart sick" we have not yet lost our hope that better councils will prevail.

IN WHOSE INTERESTS?

In France it will be remembered that the Socialist comrades postponed the drawing up of a unity pact with the Communists on the grounds that what they wanted was organisational unity. Now the Central Committee of the

French Socialist Party has taken a decision which breaks up the unification commission, though it declares that the S. P. remains true to the policy of united action. Only Zyromski voted against this decision.

The resolution was quoted with great satisfaction in all the reactionary French press to the tune of "It's never too late to mend", and an accompaniment of oblique references to a "French" Socialism.

It is ironic that one of the pretexts for this decision was the article on the XXth Anniversary of the October Revolution by none other than Comrade Dimitrov, whom the whole Spanish people knows as one of the very best fighters for unity.

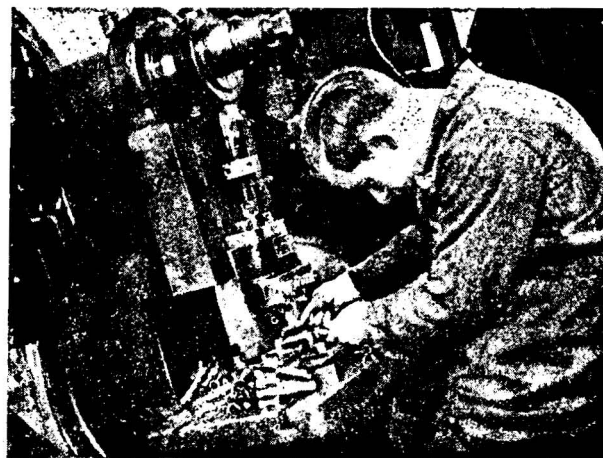
It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the campaign devoted to breaking united action and preventing the full realisation of the People's Front programme has borne fruit in this particular instance; just at a time when a widespread reactionary plot against the French State is coming to light.

The balance sheet of unity is showing both gains and losses. The situation demands that the gains increase and that there be no more losses. The Fascist aggressors are becoming ever more shameless and the Governments of the Western European democracies continue to display a hypocritical impotence, a policy of inviting the burglar in for a drink and a friendly chat, showing him the next door neighbour's house and hoping for the best.

A. M. E.



paralleled. The General Council were told that their proceedings were "gravely mutinous", and the "Daily Telegraph" informed the world that their endeavours were "a matter of national humiliation". There have been many changes in the array of forces since 1925 — those leaders of German Social Democracy who were then



MAKING MUNITIONS in one of Madrid's modern war plants.

DISCIPLINE IN OUR ARMY

EDITORIAL

In the course of nearly a year and a half, the character of the Spanish Civil War has radically changed. Two trained armies are now facing each other. The outcome of events will depend more on strategy and less on chance. When the first International Column was formed, speed alone was essential; units were sent into the line with a minimum of training and co-ordination. The International Brigades are now an integral part of a disciplined fighting force.

If it had been possible to call up a fully disciplined army from the Spanish soil at the outbreak of the war, the subsequent history of events would have been very different. The Government's task in those days was to stop the advancing rebels by whatever means they could lay hands on. There was no time to organize discipline on a large scale. It was necessary then to rely on the self-discipline that is inspired in men who are fighting for what they believe in.

Self-discipline may suffice for a small group of men who remain in constant touch with one another. As the scale of organization widens and the work of the small units is co-ordinated, the problem of discipline is enormously increased. It becomes essential that the central command shall be able to rely upon the units carrying out instructions as quickly and thoroughly as possible. In other words, unconditional obedience is vital to the formation of a fully trained army.

In the early days a good deal of discussion went on in the International ranks. Even as late as Brunete, some men would discuss the merits of an order instead of jumping to obey it. This sort of behavior is a legacy of the old world, and shows how hard it is even for an anti-fascist to break his old habits. In his own country he often opposed authority, because it was in the hands of the wrong men. He is fighting against their allies now, but the position has changed. The authority under which he serves is on his own side. He realises now that every order is part of a general plan, that failure to carry out every order may endanger the whole plan.

This has been the volunteer's difficulty, to recognize the difference between one kind of authority and another, and to change his attitude accordingly. It is a difficulty which has been largely overcome. There is now a spirit in the units of the Brigade which is quite new. Recent recruits, who have been trained on the basis of the new discipline, have materially helped the change. The older members have responded. One of the most interesting aspects of life in the Brigade has been the capacity of the men to change. Such is the influence exercised upon them by their common purpose that its changing requirements have a corresponding effect on the men themselves.

One of the hardest disciplinary lessons that our volunteers had to learn was the necessity of saluting. At first glance it seems a small matter, and even appears to introduce an element of class-distinction between officers and men. It reminded the men too much of the respect they were asked to show at home to those who exploited them.

Thanks to the institution of political commissars, whose duty it is to act as a link between the men and the command, the reason for saluting is now generally understood. There is no question of exploitation or empty respect, since the officers of the Brigade hold their positions by virtue of merit and service alone, and every soldier has an equal chance of rising to rank. Saluting is a simple device for assisting an officer to have his orders promptly obeyed. The soldier who is reluctant to salute is reluctant to obey; his reluctance means that his mind is occupied with the thought that he is "as good a soldier" as his officer, and if that is the case, he is likely to consider his own decisions as good as those he receives. Such a man cannot be relied on.

The problem is fading out. It is rarely now that you hear objections raised in the Brigade to the new regulations. This reflects both on the command, whom the men respect, and on the men themselves, who want to get the war won. Above all, it is a tribute to the powerful sense of unity which makes such changes possible, and it seems to persist through everything and despite everything.



THE STUDENTS of the Lagasca Institute of the F. U. E. (Federation of University Students) are the "Madrinas de Guerra" of the 15th Brigade. These young students visited the International Brigade Headquarters of the Madrid Commissariat recently and were entertained by the Anglo-American delegation there.



THE WAY the Madrid International Brigade headquarters looked last month during the double anniversary celebration: of one year of the successful defense of Madrid, and twenty years of the victories of Socialism in the U. S. S. R.

A CLOSE-UP OF OUR CHIEF OF STAFF

Major Robert H. Merriman of the Fifteenth Brigade was once a university lecturer. Because he wears spectacles and has a quiet voice, some believe he has never been anything else. This is far from true. Bob Merriman's life has been tough, even hard-boiled.

True to the old American custom, he started living away from home at a very early age. He had worked through a number of jobs before he came to have any pro-



MAJOR MERRIMAN and his wife Marion.

fessional connection with books. The thirst for knowledge caught him when he was working in a logging camp, where he met a man who had read a little about much. He was inspired to do the same, and with this intention he trekked off to Nevada University, where he planned to spend a year studying as many subjects as he could cope with in that time.

The only subjects he had no interest in were those which he was compelled by statute to take, as a first-year student. In the effort to avoid them, he showed more initiative than any man had shown before him, and discovered a forgotten statute which gave him a reliable alibi. He got away with it. Before anyone else was able to do the same, the statute was formally repealed.

Bob Merriman's ideas about life in general are clear enough, but so far as his personal destiny is concerned he does not even trouble to rough-hew it. Provided he can work for his general ideas, he is indifferent how he earns his living. Mental and physical work are equally congenial to him. He may plan ahead, but he is ready to see his plans changed by circumstances without regret. His philosophy is very serviceable.

His single year of study lengthened to four; his many subjects narrowed to one, economics, on which he became an authority.

Just why his plans changed it is difficult to say, but suspicion rests on the girl he fell in love with the day he enrolled as a student. With a stroke of poetic justice, he married her the day they both left. During the four intervening years, both man and girl had to keep themselves. The girl had given a new twist to the old American custom by having her family walk out on her. They had now walked back again, and they, too, had to be kept.

Bob Merriman's small store of savings wore out with his shoes. Feeling he had a capacity for window dressing, he offered his services to a department store for a new pair of shoes, and got the contract. His ability earned him promotion to the counters, where he sold a corset so successfully that the manager, who watched him do it, gave him a permanent job. From then on he never lacked work. He reckons the oddest thing he ever did was to be a salesman in an undertaker's par-

lour. Two years of university life had convinced him that it was all rather reactionary. He resigned from his fraternity—the only man who had ever done so. He resigned from eight other societies. He was unable to resign from the military R. O. T. C., which he had joined for the pay. As things turned out, this was fortunate, as his military grounding has since proved useful to the Spanish Republican Army. Had he been able to resign, he would probably have done so, as a protest against the exaggerated importance placed by

the authorities on military instruction. He made his opposition evident in the student paper, of which he was manager. In return for this he was denounced in public by the President, who refrained only from referring to him by name. This did not deter him from remaining another two years.

On leaving the University, a married man, he took a job digging ditches, which he liked. He is probably the only man in the Fifteenth Brigade who likes digging. An influential friend got him his next job at the University of California, where he eventually became a lecturer in economics. During this time he lived in a single room with his wife and the peripatetic family.

Despite the family, life became too still. They moved out and Merriman took a job in a Ford plant. Just at this time the San Francisco general strike broke out, and Merriman plunged into it, becoming an I. L. D. organizer. His knowledge of strategy warned him that it would be wise not to let his former employers at the University know about this. It might have stood out a mile; but as Merriman says, professors live in glass houses and never look out of them. When later he asked the professors to finance him to the Soviet Union on a traveling fellowship, they saw through nothing. He sailed with his wife.

As soon as he arrived he began collecting material for a book on the economics of collective farming. As a preliminary, he investi-

gated life on eighty farms. His book was already begun when the war broke out in Spain. At the same moment the current two-year period expired. This was too much. He packed up and became a soldier again.

Merriman arrived in Spain in January and joined the first American group. By the time it became the original Lincoln Battalion, he was its adjutant. He initiated a movement to establish efficient training centres in the open, the first of which was built at Pozo Rubio and destined for the Lincolns. They were already in camions, on the point of moving to their base, when an order came that they were to go straight to the front. The February trouble was starting at Jarama.

They spent the night in Albacete. Rifles were issued. In the morning each man fired three shots into the side of a hill with his own rifle, and that was the extent of his training with it. Events put Merriman in command of the Battalion the day they moved up. They went straight into the battle and laid the foundation of the Battalion's good record. They gained ground, even in those difficult days.

After twelve days of fighting, on Feb. 27th, Merriman was wounded in the arm. The hospital doctors were short of medical supplies, and put his arm in builder's plaster, which is several times heavier than its medical equivalent. He carried the weight and the wound around together.

When his wife heard the news, she caught the first aeroplane out, contrary to his instructions. Only recently she returned to the States to make propaganda, as one who had worked close to the war.

While still convalescent, Merriman took charge of the Officers' School. From here he was transferred to take command of the new Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion, whose thorough grounding is largely due to his efforts. He came up to Headquarters while the brigade was at rest after the Brunete offensive, and took over his present duties as Chief of Staff. A waft of additional efficiency blew in with him.

Since then he has been through the actions at Quinto, Belchite and Fuentes, a familiar figure, with a heartening coolness and a Latent head.

M. T.



OUR "GLORIOSA".

Two New Tasks Face the International Brigades

In the present situation in Spain the volunteers in the International Brigades are faced with new tasks in addition to those which they have been undertaking up to now. Firstly there is the question of giving effective help in the military and political training of the new recruits—an indispensable condition which determines a unit's fighting value—and secondly that of promoting the maximum number of new Spanish cadres from the ranks.

Our Army is growing every day; new recruits are flowing in. The necessities of the war make it impossible to give these men long months of training. The new recruits have to be trained in a few weeks and made into good soldiers, acquainted with military tactics. And it is precisely the "old soldiers", those who have gone through long months of war who should become the organisers, the moving spirits and the instructors among these new recruits.

What would be the fighting value of a unit with a handful of trained men, but with the great majority of its members inadequately prepared? It is obvious that its value could only be negative.



We must therefore co-ordinate and concentrate all our efforts with the aim of providing our Army with the qualities which will enable it to inflict a decisive defeat on Fascism. We should profit by every opportunity, by every moment of rest to carry out training exercises, with old and new soldiers together, so that the experience of the older soldiers can be passed on to the new recruits. Let the more experienced soldiers give an example of discipline and goodwill, wherever they are. Only in this way will our International Brigades be able to

fulfil their role and maintain their reputation as shock units.

To bring this about, however, there are other conditions which are necessary.

In our International Brigades the best possible relationships must exist between the Internationals and the Spaniards. We must succeed in forming a united and monolithic whole, despite differences of languages and temperaments.

When reproaches are made about poor work among the recruits, one often hears the reply: "But we have no Spanish cadres to work among them." They ask for cadres everywhere—from the Division, from the Army Corps, or the Government. Obviously, they get nothing or very little. The fact is that the same difficulties are encountered everywhere. There is only one solution—to develop new forces, new cadres.

We must know how to bring out the comrades with intelligence and ability who are hidden in the ranks and set them in responsible posts.

The quality and the qualifications of the cadres in our International Brigades should be measured by the number of new leading for-

ces they have been able to draw from the ranks.

It should be regarded as humiliating for the leaders of our Brigades to have to ask for cadres from other units. We ourselves must create them, and in such large numbers that we are able to send them to units that stand in need of them.

I know that there are comrades who have a feeling of pride when they count all the International officers and commissars in the Brigades: "See how many good elements we, the Volunteers for Liberty, have given to the Spanish cause".

It is certainly true that we have given many good elements to the Army. But we should take much more pride in being able to say how we have contributed to bringing out a large number of new Spanish cadres from our ranks.

By giving active assistance in the fulfilment of these two tasks—the training of the new recruits and the formation of new Spanish cadres—we shall have done a great deal towards strengthening and reinforcing our Army.

L. GALLO

Commissar Inspector
of the International Brigades.

WAR WAGED AGAINST ILLITERACY IN THE 45TH DIVISION

The 45th Division has given us the balance sheet of one month's activity on an important front. In the 12th Brigade 123 individual lessons have been given and 77 collective lessons. In two Battalions of the 13th Brigade the figures are 34 individual lessons and 40 collective lessons. The total for the whole Division is 255 individual lessons and 141 collective lessons. Out of 717 illiterates 60 have learned to read and write.

WHO'S DUMB?

"They're talking now of recognizing Franco as a belligerent."

"Are they? It hasn't taken eighteen months for some of us to recognize that."



ONE OF OUR cooks in the 15th Brigade getting the grub ready out in the open.

SCANDINAVIAN PAPERS SEIZED BY NAZIS

Berlin police have seized all Scandinavian periodicals, including Swedish, Danish and Norwegian, for publishing caricatures of Goering and Schacht. The Gestapo considered the pictures offensive.

Munitions men

Exult again

And say "What could be finer
With Spain at war

And — what is more —
Japan invading China."

The Nazi censors have gone to work on the film "Lloyds of London", now showing in Berlin. One piece of dialogue they cut out was the line in which a boy asks his uncle, "Does it go well with the war in Spain?"

SPAIN'S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TRACES AGRARIAN REFORMS IN RECENT INTERVIEW

In the forefront of constructive work carried on by the Republic must be put that of Agrarian Reform. Since July, 1936 the condition of the Spanish peasant has been changed altogether and this lot has improved from day to day. The famous decree of October 7th, 1936, nationalised the lands of the great rebel proprietors and handed over the entire use of them to those who cultivate the soil. I asked Vicente Uribe, the Minister of Agriculture, to tell me about the agrarian policy of the government.

PLIGHT OF PEASANT

"The agrarian question has always played a large part in Spanish politics. Before the rebellion the peasants lived under a semi-feudal regime. Almost half the fertile land belonged to the big proprietors — six great landlords possessed between them 264,000 hectares, entire provinces! The big estates of more than 250 hectares owned a third of the cultivable land, while many of the peasants had not even half a hectare. The farmers and small peasants, who rent land, payed enor-

mous tribute; 40 to 60 % of the produce of their labors went to the proprietors!

"The condition of the agricultural laborers was even worse. Before the rebellion, in the province of Albuquerque the workers were still paid only a single meal for toiling from sunrise to sunset. In Granada a day's work was paid four pesetas, in Extremadura 2.50, in Salamanca and Toledo 1.50. As for women they received 60 centimes at Toledo; and at Valencia an orange-picker received 2 pesetas for ten hours' work.

"This was not all. The agricultural workers only obtained these laughable salaries when their work was needed. During the off season, for months and months, they did not earn a penny. And their lives were more wretched than those of serfs in the Middle Ages. It was very simple: they died of hunger. In Extremadura the peasants were reduced to toasting acorns for food. But as the oak forests belonged to the lords they were arrested by civil guards when the peasants were caught gathering acorns and thrown into jail!

"The agrarian problem was one

of the underlying causes of the fall of the monarchy, and the Republic at once attempted to solve it. It was decided to distribute land to the peasants after having indemnified the proprietors. The misfortune was that the government was composed of men who were perhaps sincere republicans, but many of whom were also big landowners, or related to big landowners. This explains the weakness and dilatoriness with which the reform which was decreed in the enthusiasm of the first days of the first days was executed.

REACTION HALTS REFORMS

"Nevertheless, in 1932, after the pronouncement of Sanjurjo, the government suddenly became uneasy and decided to punish the monarchist rebels decreeing that they should be expropriated without indemnity. But the reaction was violent and when the Lerroux-Gil Robles government came into power, all agrarian reform was shelved. The few small advantages which the peasants had obtained were removed. During the 'two black years', 1934 and 1935, there was a return to

the worst days of the monarchy.

"When the peasants tried to defend their rights, the landlords refused, purely and simply to allow them to work on their land. It was a sort of agricultural lock-out. 'We', they said cynically, 'we' have money, we can wait. Whereas, you, if you do not submit, we shall not give you any work and you will die of hun-



ger'. The peasants sometimes tried to rise, but the landlords put the hated civil guards on their track, the watch-dog of the big landlords.

"And this is why the triumph of the Popular Front on the 16th of February, 1936, was so overwhelming: all the peasants were against the reaction, they had voted en masse for the Popular Front. Also the first thought of the February government was to reestablish the agrarian laws of '31', and to raise the wages of the agricultural workers. But reaction would not admit defeat, the landlords continued to boycott the peasants. In May 1936, near Albacete, the Civil Guard killed 25 peasants. Fascism was already aligning itself against the will of the people.

"And then came the rebellion of July 18th, which broke in the middle of the harvest season. Naturally, in the country, as in the towns, everything was disorganised, people only thought of rushing to arms, and in the general disorder the crops ran a risk of being lost. The government understood the gravity of the situation and its first care was, in spite of all difficulties, to assure the gathering of the harvest. In every village agricultural committees were formed, composed of municipal counsellors and representatives of trade union organisations and political parties of the People's Front.



VICENTE URIBE, Minister of Agriculture.

"A great deal was done to give publicity and explain to the peasants the importance of field work to win the war. Everyone was mobilised. It was a complete success. The crops were not lost and the sowing was accomplished with such enthusiasm — large areas of uncultivated ground were sown — that the wheat harvest in 1937 was greater than in 1935 and 1936."

GREAT STRIDES

"Was it really on the 4th of September 1936 that the portfolio of Agriculture was entrusted to you?"

"Yes, and my party realised that the problem must be immediately and fundamentally dealt with. My first act, as minister, was to give a legal standing to the will of the peasants. At one blow the agrarian reform which had been talked of for 30 years was realised. On the 7th of October, 1936, we published the decree which is the agricultural charter of the Spanish Republic. The use and the enjoyment of the lands thus nationalised was given to the peasants and the municipal collectives."

"Under the monarchy in 24 years the Institute of Agrarian Reform had distributed 6,800 hectares of land to the peasants. The Republic from 1931 to 1936 distributed 164,000 hectares, and from the triumph of the People's Front in February 1936 up to July, 712,000 hectares. We, since the rebellion, have distributed more than three million hectares! Thus, thanks to the decree of the 7th of October the agricultural workers and the small proprietors have received land, the farmers and peasant owners have ceased to pay rent to the rebel proprietors, and the small proprietors have naturally kept their land as well as all those other landowners who have remained faithful to the Republic."

S. T.

SOVIETS ENJOY SPANISH FRUIT

In the first week of December 30,000 cases of Spanish oranges and lemons entered the Soviet Union through the port of Odessa. By the end of the month 100,000 cases of this fruit will be received.

"MORE AND BETTER BOOKS" IS THE SLOGAN IN LOYAL SPAIN

In Loyal Spain today books are almost as important as bullets. One of the tremendous tasks the People's Front Government has undertaken is the liquidation of the mass illiteracy which is one of the characteristics of the feudalism that the fascists want to perpetuate. Under the slogan "Culture is also a weapon against Fascism", mind is being united with heart in the battle. Thus books are beginning to flow throughout the land in a veritable flood. With a magnificent response the Spanish people have taken to learning and reading. This work of education, which began at the very outset of the war, has already produced results so widespread that the statistical estimate of 45 percent total illiteracy in pre-war Spain must be revised downwards many degrees for the loyal zone. It represents one of the greatest achievements of a people struggling with their lives for democracy and all that goes with it.

The English-speaking fighters in Spain are, of course, a highly literate group. Many are extremely well-read. But the contagion of a land and a people full of living convictions and driving ideas, has



aroused in them a thirst for reading matter equally noteworthy. Thousands of volumes in English have been gathered and organized, and libraries exist in each battalion, in each hospital, in the transport squadrons, in rearguard posts. Everywhere that Anglo-Americans go, books are sure to go with them — as well as papers, pamphlets and magazines. Needs and moods that books can answer are satisfied now with a considerable degree of general satisfaction.

But it was not always thus. These libraries were built with great effort and some expense. And it took a long time. Books had to be bought and more had to be



ENGLISH-SPEAKING comrades in one of their libraries at the front.

brought. They came from Madrid and Valencia, from New York and London. Cultural committees did what they could here in Spain; friends at home did the rest. Civilized men must know, must learn, must read — even in war. Let the book-burners do the reverse — even in peace.

Subjects vary greatly, but books on political matters compete with light fiction for main popularity. The latter category fills an obvious need. Movies and regular forms of entertainment are to be found only in the large cities, which soldiers reach only on occasion. Relaxation — which men crave so badly after the strain of battle or training — is therefore sought in reading right where they happen to be, since the libraries are brought along with other supplies. At such times many men plunge into books like swimmers into water on a hot day. They want — and get — the light stuff: detective and mystery stories, short stories, recent best sellers and strange as it may seem, even tales of war. Humor is of course, extremely popular.

At the same time it would perhaps surprise an observer who did not know the anti-fascist volunteers intimately to see how warmly they regard the established English classics, past and present. The plays of Shakespeare and Shaw, Bacon's essays, Gulliver's Travels, Robinson Crusoe and on to John Galsworthy and Ernest Hemingway — these are a few of the representative titles frequently requested. They are read with care and enjoyment not because of their hallowed reputations, for these fighting men can

hardly be considered bookish. If a book looks good they take it. The compulsory reading of bourgeois education is as unheard-of as fascist book-destruction.

But it is natural that the literature read most attentively should be on political subjects. Anti-fascists are thoroughly familiar with the basic truth of things as they are in the world today and are keen to know the course of events. All news of the day is, of course, most eagerly devoured. But things to keep them in touch with the shifting background, the fundamentals behind the happenings, — such books are seized upon and the men possessing them besieged until finished. The most recent instance of this sort is "When Japan Goes To War", by O. Tanin and E. Yohan.

Several copies of this book are in Spain, but not nearly enough to fill the bill. The same thing was true of Harry Gannes' "Spain in Revolt" and Louis Fischer's pamphlet "Spain in Armas". The how and why is what they seek, these readers-in-arms.

Political history and general theory are unceasing subjects of reading and discussion, so far as many individuals are concerned. Theory and practice must be combined at all times, of course, but where are men doing it better than in Spain today? If it is true that some of the greatest leaders of the masses could not find the opportunity to study until thrown into jail, we may look forward to the development of many a potential leader, putting the enforced idleness of certain periods during war to similar use.

M. M.

A Labor Impostor Passes

The fight which is being made for the unity of working-class forces of Britain has been profoundly affected by the past actions of the one-time Labour leaders such as MacDonald, Snowden and Thomas. Snowden died last May, unmourned by a y but those members of the owning classes whose servant he had been.

And now the leader of the trio has died and it is interesting in the light of present-day events, when unity is so essential to the continued existence of freedom and liberty in Britain and through the world, to trace the pattern of events which led to the present position in world events, for it is certain that British policy has had a profound effect on the course of world events, and Ramsay MacDonald was directly responsible for the eclipse of the Labour Party in the years following the second Labour Government. His

guiding star in all his actions from the war years onwards was his hatred of Marxism and Bolshevism. When he died, the Nazi paper "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" appraised him thus:

"As a Socialist he was an outspoken opponent of Marxism".

MOVED BY HATRED

The essence of his being is shown by the manner of his acting when the Zinoviev forgery came to his hands. So blinded by his hatred was he that he was prepared to lose the impending General Election of 1924, in order that he might send a ferocious note to the Soviet Government demanding an explanation.

The "letter", was palpably a forgery, and the cynical attitude of the Tories to the whole business is typified by the comments of Major-General Sir Wyndham Childs, one time Chief of the London Metropolitan Police, leader of the infamous Arcos raid, and no lover of the Communists, as his utterances show. "I regarded the Communists as social pariahs and a body of persons against whom every political party should wage ceaseless war." This is the man, who when writing on the "letter", wrote the following: "There were no new ideas and no new directions (in the "letter"), but it chanced to appear at a psychological moment and its importance was exaggerated out of all proportion in order to suit the exigencies of a political situation caused by the forthcoming Election.

LETTER A FAKE

"I first became aware of the despatch of Mr. MacDonald's note by reading the daily papers. It was then that I realised the importance which was being attached to the Zinoviev letter from a political point of view. Very few people are aware that there never was any Zinoviev letter at all. The document in the possession of His Majesty's Government purported to be nothing more than the English translation of an alleged copy in Russian of an alleged original.

"Had Mr. Ramsay MacDonald been more conversant with the machinery of the organisation which he controlled in addition to administering the office of Prime Minister, I think he would have sought other opinions before despatching his note. I feel that his

ASTURIAS

High in your mountain fastness still you fight,
Lacking in arms out-numbered by the foe.
Rather than bondage, to die for what is right
And with your ebbing strength deal blow for blow.

Proudly you give your all in freedom's cause,
A bright example to oppressed mankind,
Cut off from aid, yet fighting without pause,
Steel horde ahead, wild barren rock behind.

From belching cannon's mouth and from the skies,
The steely death rains on you day and night,
Traitorous diplomats ignore your children's cries,
Deaf to your agony, blind to your plight.

Yet when the history of this war is writ
And all this bloody massacre exposed,
We your brothers will then in judgment sit
And deal out justice to our mutual foes.

Then you shall be avenged, Asturias,
For every drop of blood you gladly gave,
To make our fight for Liberty victorious
From fascism and war the world to save.

H. G. SUTCLIFFE



RAMSAY MACDONALD in Court Dress.

department did him a disservice in permitting him (or possibly inducing him—I do not know which) to send the note without having the original letter in his possession. There was no more evidence that the Zinoviev "letter" emanated from the I. K. K. I. than that the publications of the C. P. G. B. came from the same source. I am not, of course, speaking of evidence in the "police-court" meaning of the word; if I were, it would have to be admitted at once that there was no evidence whatever given in the House of Commons as to the existence of the Zinoviev "letter" or its receipt in this country.

NOT SO DUMB

"On November 21st Sir Austen Chamberlain directed a Note to the Soviet Government in which he stated that 'I have the honour to inform you that after due deliberation His Majesty's Government find themselves unable to

recommend the treaties in question to the consideration of Parliament, or to submit them to the King for His Majesty's ratification.' The Note further went on to quote an extract from Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Note, and which concluded by saying that the 'Soviet Government would do well to weigh carefully the consequences of ignoring this pronouncement.'

Childs' final comments on the matter are "If Mr. Zinoviev did actually despatch this letter to the Communist Party of Great Britain, he must surely have taken temporary leave of his senses. What was the situation? A Labour Government in power, and a treaty with Soviet Russia was about to come before the House of Commons for its consideration, so I can only conclude by giving it as my opinion that if Mr. Zinoviev did send it he was, in colloquial language, a blithering idiot."

This effusion of Childs' shows all the pride in his class that one would expect for having pulled off a slick trick on the electorate. Whether MacDonald was as dumb as he seemed, is, in view of what happened later, open to some doubt. But this incident shows the type of man he was and the kind of influence he had on the Labour Party in the post-war years. He has gone, but there are still those who oppose working-class unity in Britain. The MacDonald tradition will not die an easy death. But die it will. Die it must.

O. C. G.



Look! Warships!
Yeah? That's fine. We're getting
back to civilization.

MEDICAL STUDENT ESCAPES TO OUR LINES AND REPORTS OF TERROR IN SARAGOSSA

According to a report from the Eastern front, it seems that in one of our sectors at the Ebro River a soldier jumped out of the enemy lines, signalling not to be fired upon. He made a wild sprint for our parapets, and though the fascist sentries fired furiously, he was lucky enough to reach our trenches unhurt.

At headquarters he said he was a medical student and felt overjoyed at having escaped from the fascist yoke. His testimony was full of interesting facts, for he had been detained from August 23 to September 1, last year, in the Information Service of the Phalangists, in Saragossa, and from then until August 19 this year in the provincial jail.

The true assassins of the Saragossa proletariat are General Urrutia, Lieutenant-Colonel Dario Gazapo, and Police Commissioner Cogerti, who is also the administrator of Saragossa. Other agents who have punished the workers and leftists are Mulo, the Phalangist chief; Villuenda, the local leader; the Phalangist police, Lamarca, Toro, Pinilla, Navarro, Herretero, Trébol, and López del Olmo, who is also the station agent.

CITES CRUELITIES

There are also many elements of the worst type in the various squads of the "Cuerpos de Seguridad", "Asalto", and "Guardia Civil", those who are at the head of the assassins, distinguishing themselves by their cruelty and callousness against the workers. Outstanding among them is a lieutenant of the "Guardia Civil", whose name the medical student

could not remember, but who is in charge of the Mareria district of the Aragon capital. As examples of utter cruelty he cited the assassination of don Antonio Pla, vice-president of the provincial



THE "NATIONAL" ARMY

committee of Saragossa, whose eyes were gouged out in the presence of the student, and the case of López Conde, member of the municipal council of the city, who was horse-whipped to death. The same atrocity was inflicted on Manuel Marin Sanchez, the municipal librarian. The provincial inspector of Sanitation, Señor Albifana, was killed shortly before the same fate was met by his son, despite the latter's rank of lieutenant. Comrade Gallo, of the J. S. U., was shot, but when his family came to the morgue to claim the body they found it with the throat cut also. When the mother of Gallo protested at this added barbarity, some Phalangists present in the morgue pushed her out with shouts and jeers.

The student said he had seen an endless number of civilians ta-

ken from the Saragossa jail and shot. Among them were don Francisco Araoda, retired professor of the faculty of sciences; the Muniesa brothers, professors of the faculty of medicine; the civil governor, don Angel Varea Coronel, and many others.

He related also how the prisoners were trained by the prison officials. One of these officials, Julio Diez, boasted proudly of his ruthlessness and demonstrated it by killing an old man, shortly before he left the prison. Some of the champions of cruelty exercised themselves by putting the whip to the inmates.

Others who were outstanding in their cruel excesses include a Captain of the Information Center of the Phalange; one who bragged of having shot "thousands"; and one called Marques, who did not conceal the fact that he had shot the prisoners at Belchite. Quite famous also were two men who are known in Saragossa as the brothers "Al Capone", a nickname given to them because in every quarrel or brawl they immediately resorted to pistols. At present they are members of the body-guard used by the general of the Fifth Division.

All those known to have been members of revolutionary organizations in Saragossa must be denounced as a matter of law, afterward to be shot.

When a prisoner is condemned to work under the custody of the "Guardia Civil", it is considered a dreadful fate. The guards treat them in a terrible manner and many workers are in the hospital as a result of the blows and beatings they have received.

TRIBUTE PAID TO FOUNDER OF SPAIN'S SOCIALIST PARTY

The Delegation of the Committee for Unification of the Socialist and Communist Parties issued the following statement on the twelfth anniversary of the death of Pablo Iglesias:

"To be faithful to the doctrines of Pablo Iglesias, we must on this day make a solemn promise, take a revolutionary oath, to fight more closely every day for the triumph of the workers and of the masses. For Socialists and Communists particularly, the me-



PABLO IGLESIAS

mory of this teacher should be an imperative duty to work and fight united until we have welded ourselves into one Party, the Single Party of the Proletariat.

"Pablo Iglesias, tireless fighter throughout his life for the rights of the workers against the exploiters, against all the enemies of the proletariat and the people, is an example for all the Spanish workers and anti-fascists during these moments in which the gravity of the situation forces us to fight closer together every day in order to win the war, to fight to the finish, to crush Franco, and to hurl the invaders out of our country."

APOLOGY!

A Horn & Hardart picket tells about the cop in uniform who apologized for going into the store, explaining that it has the only available washroom in the neighborhood



OUR CAVALRY

The Myth of a Dictator: How it was Invented

The well-known German author in exile, Conrad Heiden, has published a book entitled "Hitler: The Life of a Dictator." In it he explains how and by whom the myth of a "führer" came to be created; how the National-Socialist Party was started, climbed to power and enslaved all Germany. The fifth chapter of the book is called "Dietrich Eckart Looks For a Dictator" and shows that the idea of a "führer" arose from the topsy-turvy notions of a bad poet, a drunkard unbalanced by the war. Here are some excerpts from this chapter:

"Whoever had the luck of entering the Ortiga Tavern, in the Bohemian district of Schwabrig, in Munich, on a certain summer's night in 1919, would have been able to sit at a table together with the regular habitués of the café, and thus witness the invention of Hitler. Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say the invention of the legend of Hitler.

"In this tavern the poet, Dietrich Eckart, was holding forth. He was a man of medium height, but corpulent, with an impressive bald head and very small eyes; and quite plainly a man who loved wine to excess. He had a habit of using curse words which in no other language sounds quite so well as in the Bavarian dialect.

"Before the war this Dietrich Eckart had been the editor of a weekly in Berlin which was a firm supporter of the Kaiser. But like

enjoyed would seem to be the destiny of the Nazis in Germany.

"Among other works he made an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's "Peer Gynt". It was notable for the extreme liberties it took with



HITLER

Ibsen's meaning. But Eckart asserted, in his incomparable manner, that he was concerned only with the spirit, not the form, of the original.

"This man, more of an artist in living than in writing, had become attracted to politics since the war, as had many others of the literati. He began calling for the creation of a party "to combat the Jews and Bolsheviks." To the motley Bohemian crew that frequented the Ortiga Tavern he declared, "It must be a party of the German bourgeoisie. Why? Because a worker is also bourgeois when he is a German. Are we going to regard the middle class and the farmers as either capitalists or tramps? Don't they have to work for what they have? They should be emulated. But the proud financiers have to be destroyed. We must return to simplicity."

Then he proceeded to explain his plans for the organization of the new party: "At its head," he said, "there must be a strong man, capable of making himself heard like the sound of a machine-gun...

The Spanish Republican Theatre in the War

The theatre company directed by Maria Teresa León, well-known playwright and producer, has given performances to the soldiers defending the fronts in the Escorial sector near Madrid.

Speaking after the first performance Maria Teresa said

"This is a new departure for our company. It is our duty to let the soldiers know that we remember them. At the same time we accustom those who have never seen plays to see them and those who have hitherto only seen bad works to see good ones.

"One fine, but cold morning we arrived at the front in order to give a little joy and merriment to men who, before the war, had only known rough work in the fields and who had no time for amusement, men who now, in the struggle for freedom, are living face to face with death. Our actors are not like the wandering actors who formerly went from village to village inspired rather by hunger than by the desire to act.

"We come to visit our soldiers in a happy frame of mind. From the road the distant enemy lines are visible. Far away can be heard the thud of bursting shells: white smoke can be seen rising from a clump of trees on the horizon. The undulating landscape, with its green hills, does not in the least betray the proximity of war.

"During a performance of "Mariana Pineda" two soldiers were standing by my side. One of them said to the other: "All my life I have done nothing but dig and now I am here like a lord." This frank expression of satisfaction goes a long way to explain what our struggle means. The peasant who has now become a soldier

finds it difficult, yet pleasing to find he is one of the many who are now no longer downtrodden and despised, but who, on the contrary, are given the opportunities which once were only the lot of the few."

The audience, most of whom are men, follow the play with the utmost attention. Afterwards they mix with the actors and chat with them. In former times the actors were something apart from the audience, as separated as were the villages from the cities. Everything was out of the reach of the peasants — justice, culture, art... Now all is within their grasp.

They can learn to read and write, they can see the theatre, they can talk with the actors, they themselves can become actors. The Republic has introduced them to a world of feeling. And now when they are fighting and cannot go to the theatre, the theatre comes to them. How things have changed! The Republican soldiers are happy and cannot lose, for every day brings with it a new object in life. Every one of them now has the strength which a hundred men formerly had, in the days when life had no prospects and when every atom of stimulus was crushed in them even before they left their mother's womb.

KULTURI

BERLIN. — Nazi police seized and destroyed all foreign newspapers containing the pastoral letter issued by the German Episcopal Church. Among these forbidden papers were all the English dailies and several French.



a true Bavarian and natural Bohemian he did not last very long in the capital. He then devoted himself to the theater and wrote a series of dramas. The two or three plays which were produced had very little success. And to compose dramas which are not produced, or if produced, are not

for the rabble must be forced to shiver in its boots.

"This man should not be a politician or an official. The public no longer feels any respect for officials. It is best that such a man be a worker who could say things without restraint, one who is not obligated to anyone... My God!" he shouted, "if only Noske had not been such a so-and-so!" (Here came one of his characteristic vulgar expressions).

Then he continued with his specifications for leadership. "He does not need much brains. The trade of politician is the most stupid in the world, and every fishwife

knows it. I prefer a conceited monkey, capable of giving the Reds a loud answer and who will not flee before the raised hoofs of a horse. I prefer him to a dozen learned professors."

And as the climax of this lecture on political science, Eckart said, "He must be unmarried. In this way we can attract the women to us."

This is the picture of Hitler, and many people still remember that the prophetic image was painted in a fly-by-night tavern in Schwabrig. Dietrich Eckart is the spiritual author of the myth of a "führer."

DOCTOR BARSKY RETURNS TO SPAIN

After a four-month speaking tour of the United States, in which he spoke to enthusiastic audiences from Maine to California, Major Edward Barsky of New York has returned to Spain to resume his work with the American Hospitals in Spain. Major Barsky, who headed the first American Medical Unit to arrive in Spain early last February, toured the States under the auspices of the Medical Bureau to Aid Spanish Democracy.

"There is a definite increase and crystallization of sympathy for Spain in the United States", said Doctor Barsky on his return to the American Base Hospital, "and the Medical Bureau has now drawn more and more people to its side in the gathering of medical aid for Spain." At meetings in all the major cities of the United States, Doctor Barsky was received by large audiences and definite financial returns. A high point in the Doctor's trip was the formation of a West Coast Medical Unit for Spain, complete with doctors, nurses, technicians, and equipment under the leadership of Doctor Leo Eloesser, professor of surgery at Stamford University Medical School. This unit, now in Spain, increased tremendously the interest and activity for the Loyalists on the entire West Coast and in meetings in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Berkeley. People from all classes were brought together and responded to Doctor Barsky's pleas for aid.

At a meeting in the University of California, which is represented in Spain by a large group of students now in the 15th Brigade under the leadership of Robert H. Merriman, one time professor at the U. of C., Major Barsky addressed a large audience of professors, their wives, and students of the school. "This was a high

spot on my tour", stated the doctor. "The response was excellent. The interest equalled, if not in physical size, at least in enthusiasm, my meeting in Madison Square Garden, New York."

In Chicago and its suburbs, in Rockford, Illinois (the scene of a tremendous movement for the C. I. O.); in Boston, before Harvard students at a meeting in



DOCTOR BARSKY

Woods Hole, Mass., where, with Dr. Walter B. Cannon of Harvard Medical School, Major Barsky addressed representatives from 17 universities working at the Marine Biological Laboratories. He also spoke before a group of doctors at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association in session at the University of Minnesota. In all these and other meetings for medical aid to Spain, money was raised and solidarity was expressed.

At a meeting of the staff, Doctor Barsky was welcomed back to Spain and to the scene of the first American Base Hospital. At this reunion the Doctor addressed the staff and congratulated Major Doctor Busch on the splendid advances made in his absence. He expressed the hope for even further strides in hospitalization in the future. Dr. Leo Eloesser was present at the gathering and spoke of some first impressions of Spain. The eminent California surgeon told of the high type of surgical work he witnessed in Spanish hospitals. He told those present (in perfect Spanish) of his hopes for an even greater unity with our Spanish comrades.

M. H.

A Watch Makes the Rounds

A well-known comrade and old-timer of the Fifteenth Brigade came out to Spain with a watch. He obtained this watch by means of a swap, which he arranged in London on his way out. On the back of it he inscribed a brief message in Irish Gaelic.

He was wounded in the February actions at Jarama. While he was at the dressing station, waiting with the blood running down his arm, he supposed that the watch would be of no further use to him. He gave it to a comrade who asked to have it rather than see it thrown away, and after that he thought no more about it.

Some months afterwards an American came up to him and said, "You're an Irishman, perhaps you can tell me what this message means on the back of my watch."

It was his own. The American passed it over without demur. He had taken it, he said, from the wrist of a French comrade, as it seemed a pity to let it be buried with him.

The watch was going, and still goes on the wrist of the man who brought it to Spain. By what devious process of exchange it came into the hands of a Frenchman will probably never known.

1000 Years on Strike!

Thirty million working days were lost this year by strikes in 21 countries throughout the world. According to the annual bulletin of the International Labor Office at Geneva, this is equivalent to one worker's non-productivity for a period of one thousand years.

Japanese Bombard Catholic Mission

Japanese bombing squadrons, in a raid over the town of Huang-Teh, dropped several heavy charges on the Catholic Mission there. According to reports, the mission had clearly identified itself by ground markings. Casualties and material damages reach considerable figures.

Spanish Painter Goes to The United States

Pablo Picasso, the celebrated Spanish painter, will represent his country at the International Congress of Artists meeting in New York this month. Picasso had previously refused many invitations to go to America, and accepts this time to show his loyal support of the Government.

Not Even Fascist Bombers Could Ruffle his Dignity

Where was Wattis when the bombers came over? Wattis was shaving; or if you can think of something else not unconnected with a man's personal preparations for the day, perhaps you're right.

Wattis was a Brigade figure. He was indeed. Any two other Brigade figures would have fitted inside Wattis' belt together. He was a Great Guy. It was Wattis who looked after the Brigade's food supply up to the time when he was wounded while we were taking Belchite.

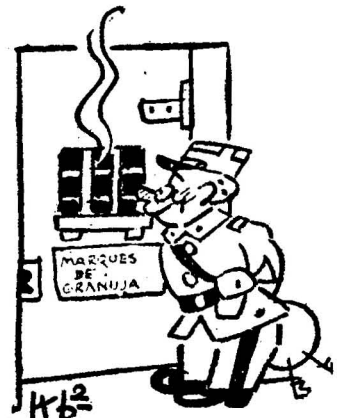
When the bombers came over one morning during the Brunete offensive, Wattis was shaving behind a tree. This Brigade figure, half uncamouflaged, offered a wide, pink target to the bombers; but Wattis went on shaving.

"Get under cover, for God's sake!" shouted someone, running past. "They're coming over!"

"Cover be damned," said Wattis. "Do you think I am going to pull up my shirt for those blighters?"

And if that wasn't what he called them, it began with the same letter.

HIS MASTER'S APPETITE



"Howdy, General, salud eh! Like the soup?"

U. S. Ambassador to Germany Resigns

Professor William E. Dodd, American Ambassador to Germany, has resigned his post. Mister Dodd is noted for his progressive tendencies. He and his son have spoken frequently in the United States before anti-fascist audiences.

CATALONIA TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN THE WAR

The great importance assumed in Catalonia by the industry of the textile manufacturing syndicates and their development in the present economic and social situation, have prompted us to obtain an account of their various problems. With this purpose the members of the Secretariat of the regional committee of the manufacturing, textile and related industries of Catalonia have given us the following information:

At the outset of the uprising, when we had taken charge of the factories, we found that many individuals had come to be small capitalists by buying a few looms. There were others who had formed companies by contributing capital and buying twenty or thirty looms together, but had not

port. The industry used 400,000 bales of cotton, most of it coming from America and some from India and Egypt. But when the uprising began the supply of prime materials was rapidly exhausted. Capitalism had declined to pay the debts it owed to the American exporters, and we were forced to deal with a very limited amount of raw material. This we attacked, paying what was due. Through the efforts of a certain Bank we were able to settle all debts by the end of the year. This was eloquent proof of our attitude. But there still remained the painful problem of the lack of raw materials. In seeking a solution of this problem a committee went to the Government in January 1937. We calculated the value of foreign exports at some 300,000,000 pesetas and proposed a formula to the Government. This consisted of exporting manufactured goods and converting it, through commission agents, into bales of cotton which we would receive by land; for we imposed the condition that the material would be brought to the frontier. We would thus secure the advantage of a discount from the French railways and we also planned to request the same from the Spanish rail. But difficulties arose and this idea never materialized.

Our structure consists of industrial syndicates, grouped according to manufacturing zones, which number seventeen. Each has its own committee and together these delegates constitute the Regional Committee.



THE WOMEN of Spain are daily becoming more involved in their country's war industries.

developed very successfully; they had been forced to become dependents of the large enterprises. The big firms were the ones which received the important orders. When the order was very large and greater productive capacity was needed, they resorted to the small companies to serve them and complete the work. In the manufacturing and textile industry there were many such cases of houses who had no life of their own, who merely worked for others.

When the large firms were collectivized those of the greatest potential output refused to give work to the smaller firms, but this contradictory situation was abolished by the "Decree on Collectivization", which required the large to help the small.

Eighty percent of the regional production had been for the home trade and the remainder for ex-



ANOTHER photo of the delegation. Ellen Wilkinson M. P. is on General Miaja's left. Major ATTLEE is on the extreme right.

BRITISH LABOUR DELEGATION VISITS SPAIN

(Continued from page 1.)

mocracy. Two rifle salutes were fired into the air by squads of picked British and Spanish soldiers during the silence.

"Help us to get arms", was the plea of the British Volunteers in the battalion. "We'll do our part here, fighting not only for the freedom of the Spanish people, but for the very existence of the Labour Movement threatened by Fascism in Britain and the entire world. You must carry on the fight back home."

General Walter voiced the determination of the International Volunteers and the Spanish people to prevent Spain "from becoming a European Abyssinia".

MEETING TO AID SPAIN

After visiting the barracks of the British Volunteers the delegation had dinner at the Brigade Headquarters before continuing on their journey to Valencia. Prior to their departure the delegation stood at attention during the playing of the Spanish Republican anthem, then stood at salute while singing the "International" in company with the soldiers.

"Good courage and good fortune", cried Miss Wilkinson in parting.

Almost immediately after his return to Britain, Major Attlee will be the principal speaker at a great Labour Rally at the Albert Hall in London. This meeting is the climax to a great Aid-Spain Campaign which the Labour Party

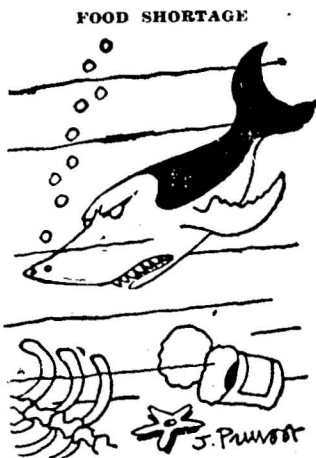
has been conducting over the last few weeks. The Campaign has as its immediate objective the collection of food and milk for the Spanish people, and the political objective of rousing public opinion in order to force the British Government to drop its policy of "non-intervention".

With regard to the collection of food and milk, the support given by the working-class parties, and by the Co-operative movement especially, is such that the success is assured. In the case of the campaign to rouse popular opinion against the policy of the British Government, there is as yet no evidence that this is going with a real swing.

Major Attlee will return at the climax of this campaign—a campaign which has not yet attained the necessary results. He will be fresh with memories of his visit here, memories of a people who will fight to the bitter end, memories of International Volunteers including his own countrymen who are fighting for the Liberty of Spain and the Peace of the World.

What he must do is clear to us and to himself. He must turn this meeting from being the climax of one campaign into the first step of an even greater one—a campaign which will really bring results, a campaign of direct action in favour of the Spanish Republic.

A. D.



"What's the matter with these pirate submarines? It's time they sank some more refugees."